

Mahathir-donation (Pix)  
PM URGES MUSLIMS TO DONATE TO NON-MUSLIMS

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged the Muslim community to donate to non-Muslims to prove that Muslims not only receive but also are prepared to give.

The Prime Minister said such a gesture would not only reflect well on Islam and its followers but also enhance the rapport between Muslims and non-Muslims, and create peace.

"If we are prepared to donate to non-Muslims, it will give a better picture of Islam because it shows that we are not only prepared to receive but to give as well," he said when presenting Hari Raya aid to orphans here tonight.

The ceremony was organised by the Federal Territory and Selangor Orphans Welfare Association.

Dr Mahathir said it would be awkward if Muslims did not donate to non-Muslims when many incidents worldwide had shown the readiness of non-Muslims to come to the aid of Muslims in need. -- more

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Citing an example, he said a major portion of the food aid sent to starving Muslims in Somalia was contributed by non-Islamic countries.

He said: "As such, we should not limit ourselves to donating to Muslims only but extend it to non-Muslims also."

Dr Mahathir said because of this he wanted to see Muslims in Malaysia attain success and wealth and be aware that the responsibility to donate, especially to orphans, was a religious obligation.

He believed that through this way more donations could be collected although some among the well to do were still reluctant to share their wealth.

The Prime Minister reminded orphans not to be too dependent on aid but to try to be self-reliant. -- more

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This would not only free them from their dependence on others but also enable them to help those who were less able, he said.

"This way we can mould a Muslim community that is not dependent on others and is strong under whatever conditions," he said.

Dr Mahathir did not want Muslims to only know how to criticise non-Muslims for their reluctance to help an Islamic country that was facing problem.

At the ceremony, he received on behalf of the association donations from several well-wishers, including RM10,000 from the Welfare Body of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti) which was handed over by his wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

This year, 760 orphans received RM80 each from the association. -- Bernama

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