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RESPECT EACH OTHER'S RELIGION, MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said respect for each other's religion is an important factor in ensuring racial harmony.

He said without religious tolerance there would not be peace among the people of various communities, as was happening in some other countries.

Malaysians should be proud of racial harmony in this country and should always work towards maintaining peace, he said at the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Malaysian Consultative Council for Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikism here tonight.

He said any misunderstanding on religious matters should be resolved through meetings and not by force.

The government, he said, was prepared to consider the views submitted to resolve such problems.

He said sometimes the government had to act to regulate certain religious activities to ensure that its credibility was not affected.

The public should understand the government's action which was aimed at ensuring peace in the country.

He said in some countries, the moderate leaders were pressured by extremists to the extent that they could not practise their moderate policies.

"These leaders want to see peace in their countries but the pressure by the extremists make it difficult for them to maintain peace," he added.

Such a thing did not happen in Malaysia, he said, adding that the people should work hard to maintain the situation.--Bernama

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