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Mahathir-Kampung

BRING KAMPUNG CULTURE TO URBAN AREAS, URGES MAHATHIR

MUKAH, Sarawak, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged people who move to the towns to bring along and practise their kampung culture and life style to preserve unity and harmony in Malaysia.

The Prime Minister said Malaysians who comprised people of various races, religions, languages and cultures should realise that unity and prosperity being experienced now would not by itself last forever.

Hence they should strive to preserve this friendship and closeness, he said when launching the Sarawak level "Gerak Mesra" programme here.

The programme was attended by about 15,000 people from Mukah, a coastal village some 150km north of Sibul, the second largest city in Sarawak.

Dr Mahathir said the kampung life style was not taxing and there was mutual help but it was different in the towns and cities where even immediate members did not know each other.

There had been instances in the cities where the people living next door just looked down while the other house was being robbed just because they had always minded their own business, Dr Mahathir said.

This would not be the case if the people had been real neighbours to each other and took an interest in the each other's wellbeing, he said.

Members of a successful and well-off society should be more responsible to each other, he said.

No member of society could live in isolation as they would need each other at one time or another, he added.

Dr Mahathir also urged the various races in this country to discard communalistic feelings as such feelings had given rise to war elsewhere in the world.

On Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia relations, the Prime Minister said they would be further strengthened with the electricity cable link between Bakun and Peninsular Malaysia.

Revenue from the Bakun hydro-electricity project would be used to build more infrastructures such as roads in Sarawak, he said. -- BERNAMA

AHM AAM