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Mahathir-discipline

MALAYSIA NEEDS DISCIPLINED PEOPLE, SAYS PM

BANTING, Jan 20 (Bernama) -- Malaysia needs people who are orderly, disciplined and act for the long-term good in improving themselves, the community and the nation, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said people who planned all their actions in an orderly manner would certainly benefit from the results of such planning forever.

"People who are indisciplined, do not know how to cooperate, do not have culture would be suppressed," he said during a visit to Kampung Endah, Kuala Langat, near here.

He said an orderly and disciplined society was one that could face challenges.

He cited Kampung Endah as an example, saying it had a truly orderly community that worked for a common objective.

The Prime Minister said that unlike many other kampungs, the residents of Kampung Endah have invested the money won in various competitions instead of distributing it among themselves in the form of cash.

And the returns from the investment is bigger compared to what they would get if they divided the money among themselves, he added.

"This is the community that can face challenges," he said.

On the other hand, people who only think of short-term gains will not be strong, he said.

Dr Mahathir said that an orderly community was able to defend the nation's position and image.

Dr Mahathir hit out at the attitude of residents of a kampung in Kelantan who, due to political differences, did not allow the body of a non-supporter to be buried there.

He said the attitude of those people clearly showed how the ruling party in Kelantan was willing to issue all kinds of fatwas (religious rulings) to split the community in order to maintain its influence.

"They create this situation when in power. This is not in accordance with the teachings of Islam that always emphasise that Islam represents brotherly ties," he said.

The Prime Minister said Kampung Endah, with the close cooperation among its residents, should be treated as a model by other kampungs, especially those in Kelantan.

"Is this kampung more Islamic or is their kampung (in Kelantan) more Islamic," he asked.

Dr Mahathir also criticised the attitude of a small group of people who wanted to file a suit against the government after being affected by floods.

He said the people should be grateful that the floods that hit this country were not as bad as the natural disasters in some other countries.

The floods in Bangladesh and typhoon in the Philippines took away thousands of lives but in Malaysia a small flood has become a big issue to the extent of people wanting to take the government to court, he said.

The Prime Minister is believed to be referring to the actions of residents of Taman Sri Muda in Shah Alam who wanted to sue the government claiming it was responsible for the recent floods in that area.

Dr Mahathir said the residents should realise that the floods were also caused by their attitude in neglecting cleanliness. -- Bernama