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Mahathir-Peace

PEACE VITAL FOR COUNTRY'S PROGRESS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

ALOR SETAR, April 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded the people that preserving the peace is important to ensure the country's continued progress and prosperity.

"Only when we are prosperous can we help the people of other countries like the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina who need the help fellow Muslims," he told a Hari Raya Aidiladha gathering at Masjid Kubur Panjang, about 30km from here.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was among a handful of Islamic countries that were willing to go to the aid of Bosnia.

Malaysia not only contributed troops to help restore peace in that war-torn country but also provided financial and humanitarian aid, he said.

"What is the meaning of Islamic brotherhood if we do not want to help other Muslims?" he said.

Malaysia could not possibly have done all these if the country itself were in chaos, he said.

Dr Mahathir reminded the people of various races and religions in the country to keep working together so that the fruits of the country's success could be distributed among them.

"We must be thankful that we can live in peace and harmony, unlike over there (Bosnia) where people of the same race and speaking one language are enemies," he said.

"Our problems are very small when compared to what they are facing.

"We are grateful for living in peace...this is our way. There is no point in fighting and becoming enemies like what happened in Bosnia because wars benefit no one," he said.

Present were his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah held Aidiladha "open house" at Dewan Jitra.

This year Dr Mahathir donated four cows for sacrifice, one each at Masjid Tanjung Pauh, Masjid Tunjang, Masjid Titi Gajah and Masjid Kubur Panjang.

The Prime Minister and his wife returned to Kuala Lumpur this afternoon. -- Bernama

MFJ YBY