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Mahathir-Message

SACRIFICE FOR RELIGIOUS SANCTITY

KUALA LUMPUR, April 27 (Bernama) -- Muslims in the country must be prepared to sacrifice to uphold and defend the sanctity of Islam to ensure that their welfare was well looked after, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

In his Hari Raya Aidiladha message, the Prime Minister said Muslims in Malaysia were fortunate as they could continue to celebrate Hari Raya Aidiladha without hindrance or problems unlike the situation in some other countries.

"Compared to Muslims in some other countries, the sacrifices by Muslims in our country in upholding and protecting Islam are negligible.

"While the sacrifices we make are limited to the slaughtering of animals like cows, buffaloes and goats on the auspicious day, Muslims elsewhere have to truly sacrifice even to the extent of losing their lives to uphold the Islamic religion, people and nation from threats of annihilation from the enemies of Islam," he said.

He cited the misfortune suffered by the Muslims in several countries like Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chechnya and Palestine as examples.

The Prime Minister said such calamities did not occur in this country because Muslims in Malaysia were well aware of the need to equip themselves with knowledge and skill to defend themselves against such threats.

He said the ability of the Muslims to develop and improve their position in Malaysia's multi-racial society "had gained the Muslims respect and admiration and became a model to be emulated by the others."

"Muslims in this country cannot be bullied or ridiculed like what was being done by the enemies of Islam to other Muslims."

Dr Mahathir also hoped that Malaysia's pilgrims in the Holy Land could perform their haj properly and bring back valuable experience for mutual benefits.

In conjunction with the celebration, Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali wished all Muslims in the country Selamat Hari Raya Aidiladha.

-- BERNAMA

MOK AO