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PM: Uphold Muslim unity for growth

LANGKAWI, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight Muslims should avoid discord among themselves to ensure the country's continued spiritual and economic development.

He said besides promoting unity among Muslims, co-existence with non-Muslims had resulted in harmony leading to prosperity which in turn had enabled Muslims to pursue their faith by making frequent pilgrimages to Mecca.

Speaking at a breaking of fast with the island residents at Masjid Al Solihin at Kampung Padang Lalang, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was fortunate that its Muslims were united despite some political differences, unlike in certain countries.

He pointed to a recent incident in a Muslim country during the fasting month, when a group of Muslims had killed fellow Muslims over some differences.

"In Malaysia though there are some differences, we have not reached that stage," he said.

The Prime Minister was happy that even the banned Al Arqam movement's followers had repented.

Dr Mahathir said this unity should not be taken for granted and urged Muslims to uphold this spirit.

"What's the point in quarrelling among ourselves (Muslims) as there's no gain for anyone."

He urged the people to abide by rules and regulations to ensure harmony was maintained.

"If we do not follow the law, there will be chaos."

Dr Mahathir also urged parents to play their part in stemming unhealthy activities among youths which were posing social problems to the nation.

"It is not wrong to have entertainment but these (entertainment) outlets should not be a source of social ills and moral decay."

He said these problems could be avoided if people abided by religious teachings.

"It is no point in pretending to be religious when the teachings are not practised," he added.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir had visited development works in Pulau Rebak which is being turned into a yachting resort.

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