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Mahathir-Message

MIGRATE TO NEW WAYS OF RESOLVING PROBLEMS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called for a new kind of migration for Muslims in celebrating the Ma'al Hijrah -- migration to new ways of resolving problems especially the current crisis besetting the country.

He said the crisis affecting the country was insignificant when compared to that faced by Prophet Muhammad while spreading Islam where he was forced to flee (migrate) from Mecca to Madina.

"If we have to be thrifty, to work harder, to be more patient and to be more moderate in our stand, we must be prepared to undergo all these changes.

"God willing, if we are willing to make this `penghijrahan' (migration), then the Ma'al Hijrah celebration will not only be in celebration of this historic day but also of beneficial to us in a more significant and meaningful ways," he said in his Ma'al Hijrah 1419 message to mark the new Muslim calendar year.

Dr Mahathir said that way the Muslims would be able to free themselves from the shackles that bound them and be successful in overcoming all oppressions.

He said Muslims should not celebrate the beginning of the month of Muharram merely by recollecting the event of the `hijrah' (migration) or celebrating it as a new year celebration but instead as a reminder to Muslims to emulate the ways of the Prophet in changing the situation and improving efforts.

"We know that the Allah could create anything by just commanding `Be' but Allah wants us to work for it. We might be successful and we might not be successful.

"Only Allah determines the result. But just because success is not assured, it doesn't mean that we should not make an effort for it and change the way we are," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that although Malaysia was peaceful and did not face problems like starvation and major catastrophe but the country was still weak and oppressed by others.

"Our weakness is due to our culture which does not give much priority to hard work, the quest for knowledge, moderation in lifestyle, practising fine values and others. As such, just anyone could come and defeat us, look down upon us and also our religion," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Muslims were as capable as others and had been proven to be successful as others when they tried.

Muslims could make changes in the fields of sciences and technology, management and commerce, invention of sophisticated products by changing what had been accepted as normal into something new to test and take advantage of existing capabilities, he said.

But, he said not all new things were good and not all changes brought success.

He said `hijrah' served as a lesson and an important example to Muslims because the migration of the Prophet from Mecca to Medina 1,419 years ago was a significant event to the extent that it marked the Islamic era.

"`Hijrah' means moving from one place to another for want of change for the better.

"The migration of Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Madina was due to pressures faced by the Prophet in Mecca that prevented him from spreading

Islam," he said.

Dr Mahathir said all Muslims were aware that the Prophet's migration was to change the situation.

"But we (Muslims) do not take seriously the meaning of hijrah as expounded in the Prophet's sunnah and God's command about improving oneself.

"As such if there is no improvement in us, we have only ourself to blame because we have failed to act to change they way we are," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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