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Practise spirit of sacrifice advocated by Islam: King, PM

THE King yesterday called for patience and sacrifice by the people in working together with the Government to overcome the problems facing the country.

In his Hari Raya Haji Aidil Adha message, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar said the spirit of sacrifice advocated by Islam should be practised at all times.

The King, and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah, in wishing Muslims a Selamat Hari Raya Haji called on Malaysians to maintain the spirit of inter-racial and inter-religious tolerance and cooperation.

In his message, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded Malaysians that although the country's development achievement is something which they can be proud of, it is still far from the level which could safeguard the country.

"Our economy is still not free yet from external threats. Due to globalisation and a free market which sees no boundaries attached, our economy is exposed to such threats.

"However, we should be thankful because the country is still able to protect its sovereignty.

"The question of whether we will be able to preserve this depends on our willingness to make sacrifices in our lifestyle. This is the time that the spirit of sacrifice advocated by Islam be practised to protect the religion, race and country," he said.

Noting that the Hari Raya Aidil Adha advocates the true meaning of sacrifice, Dr Mahathir called on all Muslims to preserve unity and prevent division and in-fighting among themselves.

He said to ensure that their well-being is protected, they should refrain from tarnishing the religion's good name through irresponsible acts.

"The solutions to problems among Muslims and with the others should reflect our belief in the Quran and the teachings of the Prophet. The Hudaibiyah accord signed by Prophet Muhammad where he sacrificed the current interest had ensured victory for the future.

"As a result of it, not only was the Prophet able to enter Mecca in the following year but people in the city also embraced Islam."

Dr Mahathir also said that he was thankful that Muslims in Malaysia are still able to celebrate Aidil Adha despite the country's economic problems.

"We are much better compared to those in other countries who had lost their life and properties defending the religion and their countries from the enemies of Islam.

"We have seen the calamities that have befallen the Muslims in Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Chechnya. Similar fate has also befallen the Albanian Muslims in Kosovo, Serbia."

The Prime Minister said the progress achieved by Muslims in Malaysia proves that they do not lack capability.

"We have played a role in safeguarding the dignity of Islam. Therefore, do not tarnish our image and the religion just because we form the majority and feel protected in our country."

The Prime Minister and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali wish all Muslims in Malaysia a Selamat Hari Raya Haji.

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