

07/04/1998

Practise spirit of sacrifice at all times, King urges Muslims

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah today extended Aidil Adha greetings to Muslims and called for the spirit of sacrifice advocated by Islam to be practised at all times.

Expressing his thankfulness that the people were able to celebrate Aidil Adha in peace, Tuanku Ja'afar hoped Malaysians would maintain the country's prosperity by preserving the spirit of inter-racial and inter-religious tolerance and co-operation.

In his Hari Raya Aidil Adha message today, the King said:

"The country calls for patience and sacrifice by the people in working together with the Government to overcome whatever problems faced by it."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali also extended Aidil Adha greetings to Muslims.

Dr Mahathir said the celebration advocated the true meaning of sacrifice and called on Muslims to preserve unity, prevent division and infighting among themselves.

He said that to ensure their well-being would be continually protected, Muslims should refrain from tarnishing the religion's good name through irresponsible actions.

"The solutions to problems among the Muslims and with the others should reflect our belief in the Quran and Sunnah Rasul," he said.

He cited the lesson learnt from the Hudaibiyah accord signed by the Prophet where he sacrificed the concerns then to ensure victory in 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 wholly."

Dr Mahathir said he was thankful that Muslims in Malaysia were still able to celebrate Aidil Adha despite the economic problems.

Actually, he said, they were much better compared to those in other countries who lost their lives and properties in 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 is also suffered by the Albanian Muslims in Kosovo, Serbia."

He said the progress made by Muslims in Malaysia proved that they did not lack the capability as compared to others.

"More or less, we have played a role in salvaging the dignity of Islam. Therefore, do not tarnish our image and the religion's image just because we feel we form the majority and are protected in our country."

Dr Mahathir said although Malaysians could be proud of the developments achieved so far, it was still far from the level which could safeguard the country.

"Our economy is still not free from external threats. Due to globalisation and a free market devoid of any borders, our economy is exposed to such threats."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should be thankful because the country was still able to protect its freedom up till now.

(END)