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Mahathir-Islam

DON'T MAR ISLAM'S IMAGE, MUSLIMS TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, April 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded Malaysian muslims not to tarnish the image of Islam by resorting to irresponsible actions driven by lust.

The prime minister said they should strive to maintain the prevailing unity and avoid disunity and enmity among themselves.

" Resolving problems among us and with others must reflect our faith in the teachings of Al-Quran and sunnah Rasul," he said in his message in conjunction with Hari Raya Haji Aidil Adha tomorrow.

He said the progress attained by Malaysian muslims thus far proved that there were not less capable than others.

" We have contributed our bit for the redemption of the muslims' integrity... let us not mar our image and that of Islam solely because we believe we are the majority and protected in our country," he said.

He said although Malaysia could take pride with the progress achieved so far, nevertheless it was still far from the level which could guarantee national resilience.

Dr Mahathir also said Malaysia's economy was not free from external threats due to globalisation and the borderless free market system.

Thus far, Malaysia could still defend its sovereignty but whether it could be sustained depended on the people's readiness to make sacrifices in their lifestyle, he said.

" This is the time to learn from the practice of sacrifice (korban)) as rendered to us by Islam to protect the religion, race and country," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who expressed his sympathy to the sufferings of muslims in Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chechnya and Kosovo in Serbia, said the muslims in Malaysia must be grateful as they were spared from a similar fate. -- BERNAMA

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