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Maal Hijrah-Mahathir

LEARN FROM MAAL HIJRAH, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 17 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysians should take cue from the Maal Hijrah event to strengthen unity to maintain the country's peace.

The Prime Minister said without unity among the people there was no guarantee that they could continue to enjoy the prevailing peace and harmony.

"In fact, the country will collapse if the people are disunited and concerned only with self-interest," he said in his message in a souvenir programme for the Maal Hijrah celebrations at Stadium Putra in Bukit Jalil here today.

He was thankful that Malaysia could still celebrate the arrival of the new Hijrah year with full significance and in peace and harmony in the midst of an economic downturn.

He said the importance of unity within a community was clearly evident during Prophet Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Medina, where among his main tasks on reaching Medina was to bring together the Muhajirin and Ansar races.

"Subsequently, by uniting various races and religions, a strong and progressive country finally emerged," he said.

The Prime Minister said the theme of this year's Maal Hijrah, "Unity of Ummah Brings Success" is a manifestation of the hijrah event.

Dr Mahathir hoped that this year's celebration would motivate the people to strive to enhance unity to preserve the country's peace.

"This is very important, especially in our efforts to achieve the status of a developed country," he said.

-- BERNAMA

MNY YBY