

27 MAR 1999

Mahathir-Message

MAHATHIR CALLS ON MUSLIMS TO AVOID DISUNITY, QUARRELS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called on Muslims in the country to refrain from placing emphasis on their own personal interest or the interest of certain groups which could lead to disunity and quarrels among them.

He said that they should remain united and he hoped that they would always strive to uphold the dignity of Islam and avoid tarnishing the sanctity of the religion by giving in to temptation or resorting to irresponsible actions.

In his Hari Raya Aidiladha message, he said: "In conjunction with this auspicious day, I would like to call on all Muslims in Malaysia to strive to maintain close ties among fellow Muslims."

He said that the peaceful situation in the country had enabled the government to ensure the progress of the Muslim community to be on par with the non-Muslims in all fields.

Dr Mahathir said that Muslims in Malaysia could be proud of their achievements thus far and they had also been able to prove that they were just as capable as the other races.

"It is our effort to restore the dignity of Muslims who have for so long been looked down at by some others," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the Muslim community in the country should be grateful for being able to enjoy progress and comfort, unlike their fellow Muslims in Kosovo and Palestine who were being intimidated and oppressed.

He said that the situation in Malaysia today, especially in terms of their daily life, was far better than in most other countries in the region affected by currency attacks and the stock market crash caused by people who reaped profits by impoverishing others.

"We have managed to thwart their evil intentions and defend our country's independence. And what was most important, the government's measures to balance the economic disparity among the various races have succeeded in preserving peace and harmony among us Muslims and our non-Muslim friends," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that such peace and harmony had allowed peoples of different religions in the country to freely practise their religions.

He said that the celebration this year was more meaningful because due to the sacrifices and cooperation of the people who supported the government's policies, the government had been able to gradually overcome its economic problems.

-- BERNAMA

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