

28/03/1999

PM: Muslims must stay united

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged Muslims to stay united and prevent discord caused by over-emphasising the interests of individuals or groups.

In his Hari Raya Aidiladha message, Dr Mahathir said he hoped Muslims would always uphold their dignity and not mar the religion's sanctity by giving in to temptation or resorting to irresponsible actions.

The Prime Minister and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali are performing the Haj.

Providing the background to the sustained peace in the country, Dr Mahathir said an important move was the efforts to reduce economic disparity among the various races.

"This has preserved peace and harmony between Muslims and non-Muslims."

The Prime Minister added that Muslims in the country should be grateful for progress and prosperity when compared to fellow Muslims in Kosovo and Palestine who were intimidated and oppressed.

With peace, the government was able to bring progress to the Muslim community so that they would be on par with non-Muslims in all fields.

In this context, he said achievements by Muslims in Malaysia was something to be proud of. To a certain extent, Muslims had proved that they were as capable as others.

"This is our bid to restore the dignity of Muslims who were all along looked down by certain quarters."

On the economic difficulties, the Prime Minister said Muslims would still celebrate Hari Raya Aidiladha in peace and in a satisfactory manner although the problems had not been fully resolved.

He said Muslims were able to perform the sacrifice while the number of Malaysian pilgrims was not affected.

He said continued co-operation from the people and more hard work would help the economy recover to normal levels.

The Prime Minister added that the situation in Malaysia was far better than in most countries in the region affected by currency attacks and stock market crashes caused by people who reaped profits by impoverishing others.

"We have foiled their bad intentions and preserved our independence."

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