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Rulers and State leaders call for support in messages

KUALA TERENGGANU, Tues. - The Sultan of Terengganu today urged Muslims in the State to avoid getting involved in activities that can lead to disunity.

He said the Hari Raya celebration should be used to forge stronger unity among the people.

To ensure that the unity among the Muslims was maintained, he called upon the people to make use of the occasion to visit fellow Muslims.

He said this in his Hari Raya message read at mosques before the Hari Raya prayers.

He added Muslims should forgive one another during Hari Raya, and in the process strengthen unity.

In Shah Alam, the Sultan of Selangor called on Malaysians to support the Government and its leadership in ensuring political, social and economic stability.

He said they should refrain from listening to foreign sources who were out to cause chaos in the country.

He said Malaysians must stand united and work as a team in fulfilling the vision of the Government in making the nation a developed one by the year 2020.

"The people of Selangor, irrespective of race and religion, must work together in realising the State Government's vision for the year 2000," he told reporters at the open house in Istana Bukit Kayangan.

Thousands of people thronged the palace to greet the Ruler and Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Siti Aishah.

In Ipoh, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said the economy was showing marked signs of recovery.

In his Hari Raya message, he attributed the recovery to the Government's efforts.

"Malaysians are well-known for their closeness during festive periods like Hari Raya and the harmony among the various races will make it easier for the Government to implement development programmes."

He said the culture of visiting homes of Muslims during Hari Raya served to strengthen the spirit of muhibbah among the races.

In Butterworth, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar supported the call by the Prime Minister to Muslims to be grateful for the good things they have.

Mohd Shariff said: "Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is right in calling on Muslims to be grateful. I think there are many things in Malaysia for which Muslims should be grateful.

"Just compare Malaysia with many other Muslims nations and you will know why there is this need to be grateful. Despite the recession, the Hari Raya mood is prevalent."

Dr Mahathir, in his Hari Raya address last night, had said that Muslims should be grateful for the good things they enjoyed, including peace and stability.

Mohd Shariff said generally Malaysians enjoyed a better standard of living today and had a Government which was caring and properly run.

"I am confident the people will continue to support the Government."

In Alor Star, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid said Muslims should set aside personal differences and unite for the betterment of the community.

He also said they should use this year's Hari Raya celebration to mark

the beginning of better co-operation and understanding among themselves.
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