

26 JUN 1999
Muhammad-Agong
STRENGTHEN UNITY, SAYS AGONG

KUALA LUMPUR, June 26 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah today reminded the Muslims to strengthen unity among themselves and to prevent the feelings of animosity from spreading.

"All Muslim leaders must work to strengthen unity with sincerity so as to appease God," he said when launching the national-level Maulidur Rasul celebration at Stadium Putra, Bukit Jalil, here.

This year's celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday with the theme "Unity Among the Ummah Brings Success" is the first to be held at the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil.

Sultan Salahuddin said: "Animosity among ourselves is frowned upon by Islam. God warns us all that we will fail if we make enemies of each other."

"I believe that none of the Muslims is prepared to see their future and that of their country in disarray, weak and colonised.

"Muslims should not forget that there are elements constantly out to weaken and destroy them," he said.

He said acts like spreading ideology that went against the true faith, provoking disputes on religion and spreading political ideologies that are extremist and have no basis in Islamic law should be avoided.

He said Muslims must learn a lesson from the sufferings of people in countries that are undergoing political and social upheavals to appreciate the meaning of peace.

"We see how people live in poverty, suffering and hunger in their own country. They yearn for peace and prosperity," he said.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong said that to make Malaysia a developed and peaceful country, every member of society should first understand and emphasise the meaning of peace.

"Malaysians should not turn peace into a mere slogan without practising it as a culture.

"Peace will give rise to harmony. Our failure to create peace and harmony will only undermine national stability and we will suffer for it," he said.

In keeping with the theme of this year's Maulidur Rasul celebration, Sultan Salahuddin wanted see Muslims living in peace, harmony and happiness as well concentrating on developing the nation.

To do this, they had to realise that success achieved without faith and fear of God would not please God, he said.

He wanted to see Muslims in Malaysia achieving success in the world on par with people of the developed countries but at the same time not forgetting the hereafter.

Present were Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

-- BERNAMA
AKT RON JK