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Mahathir-Message/BM

BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE, MAHATHIR TELLS MUSLIMS

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 Mac (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says Muslims should always count their blessings for what they have and strengthen ties with fellow Muslims.

They must also strive to avoid conflicts with other communities in the country, the prime minister said in his Aidiladha message.

He also called on Muslims to overcome political differences and strengthen their solidarity in the spirit of the current haj season.

"As a democratic country we need to have political parties and we support the parties we like. But political enmity should not be allowed to continue to the extent of creating tension among the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Muslims in this country should be grateful because they were free to practise their faith without any fear.

He said Islam was respected by the country's non-Muslims because the Muslims, who form the majority, were willing to share power with them and allow them the freedom of worship.

In contrast, Muslims in places like Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine were exploited by others and could not carry out their religious obligations properly, he said.

"While we need to sympathise with them and sacrifice a bit to help them, we also should not forget to be grateful for our better fortune," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians were not only free of pressure from enemies but also did not face shortages of food, clothes and shelter as the country never experience any major natural disaster.

"While our neighbours are often hit by major floods, typhoons, tremors and volcano eruptions, we are actually protected from the typhoons by our neighbours," he said.

The country enjoyed these and other benefits because it was peaceful and prosperous, he added.

The prime minister and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, wished all Muslims in the country "Selamat Aidiladha" and prayed for the wellbeing of those performing the haj in the holy land.

-- BERNAMA

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