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Mahathir-Sacrifice

MAKE PERSONAL SACRIFICES, DISCARD BAD HABITS - DR MAHATHIR

PENDANG, (Kedah), March 17 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged Muslims to live up to the true meaning of Aidiladha or "Feast of Sacrifice" which exhorted followers to detach themselves from earthly things for their future well-being.

The prime minister said the concept of sacrifice was not merely slaughtering a cow once a year during Aidiladha but practising self-denial for the common good of all at all times.

He said every year many Muslims celebrated Aidiladha but they had still not been able to make personal sacrifices and give up the bad things they have been engaged in for a long time.

Among the negative attitudes Muslims have to discard are enmity among themselves arising from different political ideologies, he said.

"We must be willing to make personal sacrifices by giving up wrong ideologies even if they are promoted by our own leaders as such ideologies have divided us," he said when speaking at a Aidiladha gathering at the Kampung Paya Sena mosque grounds here today.

He said he was saddened by the attitude of some Muslims obsessed with glorifying such leaders who have perpetuated bad influence.

"Although we have proven such things are not right, they insisted that it was right as it came from their leaders.

"Some also are of the opinion that deviationist teaching preached by certain people is a matter between the preacher and God. As such, they should continue supporting the leader," he said.

He likened these attitudes to incidents that occurred during pre-Islamic days in Arab countries where people lived in clans with each clan led by a tribal chief.

"Whatever including bad things done by their chief is right for their followers," he said.

Dr Mahathir said if Muslims truly practised the real meaning of sacrifice, they would receive more blessings and be a progressive lot.

He said it was most unfortunate that the Feast of Sacrifice celebrated every year did not help in bringing about unity among fellow Muslims.

"Every year, we celebrate Aidiladha but it is a pity that bad attitudes still prevailed," he added.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir performed Friday prayers at the mosque.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and Dr Mahathir's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

The prime minister is scheduled to return to Kuala Lumpur this evening.

-- BERNAMA

MZM/JM TS