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Mahathir-Unity

POLITICS IN MOSQUES IS ABOUT UNITY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, Dec 9 (Bernama) -- Politics in mosques is about fostering unity among Muslims in facing threats from the enemies of Islam, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad this evening.

"This is the politics demanded upon Muslims, not the politics concerning political parties," he said when addressing Muslims prior to the breaking of fast at Masjid Ar-Rahman Kampung Gelam, Kedawang, here.

Dr Mahathir said Muslims must be united since their enemies were usually strong.

As such, he said, Muslims should strive to foster the spirit of brotherhood and promote closer ties among themselves, irrespective of which political party they belonged to.

"The Quran does not say that Muslims of one political party must fight or quarrel with Muslims from another party," he said.

Dr Mahathir hoped that Muslims would not be influenced by certain people who were out to create divisions.

"If we were, then we would have rejected a major part of the teachings of Islam which is Muslims must be united. In being united, they are strong and able to protect themselves from the enemies of Islam, not from other Muslims," he said.

The Prime Minister said that in discharging their religious obligations, there was no difference between Muslims of the "Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah" and others and as such it would be better for them, while in mosques, to foster closer ties.

"In mosques, we are united for the politics of Islam in facing enemies who want to attack us and this time around they will fail," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Muslims must be united at all times as otherwise, they would remain an oppressed lot.

He also encouraged Muslims to invite non-Muslims to join in the breaking of fast so that they would understand how Muslims fulfilled their religious obligations.

"This way, they can see that there is nothing weird in what we do, we mingled with one another, we pray, we break fast and we perform terawih prayers," he said.

Dr Mahathir said non-Muslims then would not feel isolated and this will contribute towards peace in the country.

He said when non-Muslims were willing to mix around with Muslims and see how they perform their religious obligations, they will know that Muslims are not against them but merely submitting themselves to the Almighty.

"In fact, in Malaysia we are very fortunate because we can perform our 'ibadat' be it performing the terawih prayers or fasting without fear, unlike in other countries," he said.

Dr Mahathir said in some other countries with various ethnic communities, troubles were frequent because there was no unity and no efforts made to promote understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims.

He reminded Muslims that the purpose of performing prayers in mosques was to foster closer ties and thus mosques should not be misused for ulterior motives.

He urged Muslims to refrain from branding fellow Muslims as infidels just because they hold different views or could not perform their religious obligations like paying zakat, fasting or praying.

-- BERNAMA

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