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Assurance

RELIGIOUS CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL WELCOMES PM'S ASSURANCE

KUALA LUMPUR, July 12 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism today welcomed the assurance by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad of lasting peace and harmony for non-Muslims in the country.

Its president, A. Vaithilingam, said the council was very confident that the leadership of the government would do everything possible to maintain peace and harmony existing in Malaysia.

"We have trust in the (government) leadership," he said in a statement issued in response to Dr Mahathir's assurance that continued support for the government would enable it to stem racial prejudice besides helping to promote lasting peace and harmony in the country.

The Prime Minister made the statement yesterday when asked by reporters on what kind of assurance the government could give to non-Muslims after the slaying of two non-Muslim security officers following the arms heist in Gerik last week.

Vaithilingam, who is also the president of Malaysia Hindu Sangam, said the council had always been in dialogue with all religious groups in the country, including Islamic bodies and would continue to do so for peace and harmony in Malaysia.

"Our council has been meeting Muslim leaders on many occasions especially Ikim (Institute of Islamic Understanding, Malaysia). We have learnt to understand each other. It is most important for all the people of different races and different religions to understand each other better," he said.

Malaysians must be proud that the country had been a good example to the world on inter-religions harmony, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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