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Malaysia's success being emulated by other nations

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today other countries were emulating Malaysia because of its success in using its own approach to tackle problems.

"This shows the ability of the Barisan Nasional Government, under the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, to administer the country," he said in his Hari Raya message.

Samy Vellu said the approach had also strengthened the national economy at a time when the world economy was down following the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

"We are fortunate to be living in a peaceful, stable and progressive country. Although unemployment is rising, it is not as bad as in other countries. The retrenched are still able to get other jobs."

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud has urged Muslims in Sarawak to help maintain the good image of Islam so that it will not be tarnished by irresponsible people in their worldwide propaganda campaign.

He said just because of a small group of extremists, the Muslim community was considered as aggressive. "We as Muslims should always uphold the belief that God is just," he said.

Sarawak Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abang Muhammad Salahuddin thanked the security forces for their efforts in maintaining peace and stability.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik hoped Malaysians of all ethnic and religious backgrounds would take the opportunity during the festival to enhance tolerance and unity.

The Malaysian Youth Council called on Muslims to "open their eyes" and be grateful for being able to celebrate in peace compared to Muslims in many other nations.

Council president Saifuddin Abdullah urged Muslims in the country to unite for peace and prosperity, and reminded them that they should also take heed of the fact that their Muslim brothers and sisters in Afghanistan and Palestine were ushering in this joyous season under great duress and suffering.

Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (Abim) urged Muslims to set aside their political differences and unite for the benefit of the ummah.

"We're respected the world over and are seen as a leader of Muslim nations. Muslims in Malaysia must unite and consolidate their strength, and emerge as an example for the entire ummah," Abim president Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman said.

Parti Keadilan Nasional president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said every individual must strive for excellence and improve themselves.

She said people should not bask in their fortune but instead help the poor and needy, particularly in times of celebrations.

DAP secretary-general and MP for Kota Melaka Kerk Kim Hock said the spirit of Ramadan was worth adopting by all Malaysians and should be an ongoing process as it may be the key to harmony, unity and progress.

Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor said this Hari Raya, Muslims in Afghanistan, Palestine and Kashmir had become like "sheep devoured by wolves".

He said some Muslim countries even conspired with non-Muslims in what he termed as "ummah cleansing".

"Some became mere spectators, like the Organisation of Islamic Conference, which could only issue protest statements as part of a public

relations exercise," said Fadzil.
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