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PM joins King for tahlil ceremony

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah was today joined by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for a special tahlil and do'a selamat ceremony in conjunction with the country's 44th National Day next Friday.

The tahlil was held after the Friday prayers.

Prayers were led by Ustaz Pirdaus Ismail, while the Imam Besar of the National Mosque A. Jalil Daeng Perangreng delivered the sermon (khutbah).

The khutbah focused on the responsibilities of Malaysian Muslims in defending the independence of the country.

Jalil asked the congregation to consider how independence was a major blessing from God which the Malaysian Muslims should be thankful for.

Social problems such as the Black Metal phenomenon and the moral decay among the country's Muslim youth were some of the challenges which the ummah must overcome in their struggle to maintain an independence of thinking among Muslims, he said.

Addressing the country's Muslim youths, some of whom were reported to be involved in these undesirable activities, Jalil said:

"Because they are too independent, they seem to have forgotten the meaning of sacrifice, responsibility and character."

Jalil said that to overcome these problems, Muslims in Malaysia must unite and return to the basic concept of Islam, which espoused harmony and peace.

The usual Friday congregation of the mosque packed the main prayer hall and adjoining areas.

Many later stayed back after prayers to join the tahlil and doa selamat ceremonies.

Some also took the opportunity to exchange greetings with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Several Ministers were present. Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin, were among them.

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