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Mahathir-Message

MAKE SACRIFICES TO EMERGE A MORE SUCCESSFUL RACE, MUSLIMS TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 22 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged Muslims to be a determined lot to continue making sacrifices to emerge as a more successful and progressive race.

He said they should step up efforts to become a knowledgeable race with integrity.

He said Muslims in Malaysia have advanced and prospered under the present government administration which was capable of handling challenges and problems in the multi-racial and multi-religious country.

"They are fortunate to be given the best position, be it in political, economic or social spheres, which ensured that the welfare of Muslims is safeguarded," he said in his Hari Raya Aidiladha message.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, who are currently holidaying abroad, would celebrate Hari Raya Aidiladha in London.

They extended their Hari Raya Aidiladha greetings to Malaysian Muslims and prayed that those who went for Haj to Mecca could complete the pilgrimage and return to the country safely.

As an Islamic country, Dr Mahathir said, Malaysia had proven that its administration was fair and just although the people are of different races and religions.

"The tolerance and mutual understanding among the people have made our country peaceful and safe," he said.

This had enabled Muslims to celebrate their religious festivals with joy as the country was peaceful and safe because the people valued peace and unity, he said.

"It's obvious that majority of Malaysians and Muslims in the country reject behaviours or actions that can trigger chaos as it will not benefit anyone," he said.

He said those who tried to create trouble and violence in the country have been rejected by the people and punished.

Dr Mahathir said he was grateful to God that Muslims in Malaysia have been spared from man-made tragedies and disasters like war, typhoons, volcano eruptions, epidemics, abject poverty and famine.

In fact, Malaysian Muslims are bountifully blessed by God, he said.

He said the people's wish that the country be spared from disasters and trouble was a big sacrifice as it showed they were prepared to set aside their personal interests for the country's well-being.

"This noble attitude is in keeping with Islamic teachings which encourage Muslims to sacrifice for the well-being of mankind and sanctity of Islam," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Muslims would be divided, weak, easily exploited and defeated by the enemies of Islam if they do not sacrifice and are selfish.

There are many evidence to show that Muslims in the world now are weak because of their selfish attitude, he said.

Dr Mahathir said many Islamic countries actually have rich resources but because of their selfish desires in politics and economy, development could not be carried out and they become weak.

This render them unable to handle the misfortunes of Muslims in the world, he said.

"That's why we see majority of Muslims in the world are being continuously exploited, humiliated, attacked, in poverty and hunger. Muslims are poor in all respects, lacking in shelter, clothing and food,"

he said.

As such, Malaysian Muslims must be grateful as their fate was not as bad as some Muslims in certain places, he said.

"We must protect our position to prevent from ending up in a similar predicament like others," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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