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Mahathir-Peace

OPEN HOUSE PRACTICE CONTRIBUTES TO COUNTRY'S PEACE- DR M

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the unique practice of open house during festivals has contributed towards peace and the prevailing good situation in the country.

He said the Aidil Fitri open house being held across the country exemplified well as to how the people of various races and religions attended functions together in a climate of goodwill.

"We see that in these functions, not only Muslims are present but also non-Muslims and to some extent they can see for themselves as to what is Islam," the Prime Minister said at a Hari Raya gathering with staff of the Prime Minister's office here.

Dr Mahathir said an impression of the good of Islam was important as most non-Muslims had been given a wrong picture of Islam as though it was a "terrorist religion."

"We try to live on good terms with all people be they Muslims or from other religions," Dr Mahathir said.

He said, "This contributes to peace in our country."

Dr Mahathir said when the country was at peace, the people were bound to benefit from it.

Hence the Prime Minister urged the people to visit the open house so that peace would continue to prevail in the country.

When beginning the speech the Prime Minister joked that he had just returned "from the work of attending open house" as he had been attending numerous such open house gatherings lately.

He had been attending too many open house functions so much so his stomach was unable to stand it as he had to eat up to five times from morning till evening.

"Nonetheless I am grateful for in Malaysia, we live in luxury, we have enough food, in fact more than enough food and are able to live in peace."

"So we should not take leave from this open house too often. Once in a way it is OK but try and attend this open house as Alhamdulillah, we get many benefits from it," he said.

The Aidil Fitri function organised by the Social and Welfare Organisation of the Prime Minister's Office was attended by about 200 people.

Datin Seri Dr Diti Hasmah Mohamed Ali was also present.

-- BERNAMA

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