

11/12/2002

West needs to correct itself first

Idrus Abu Bakar

IT was a vibrant and harmonious Hari Raya Aidilfitri. Thousands of Malaysians of all races and religious beliefs, thronged the open house of the Prime Minister and his deputy.

The fascinating thing about this celebration is that the multi-racial, multi-religious and multi-cultural Malaysians have accepted it as their own and this augurs well for the country. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, met well-wishers with a smile and mingled with them with ease.

All the visitors had a good time. Would those Western leaders who preach democracy dare to have open houses and mingle freely with the crowd without the presence of bodyguards?

I don't think so. Here in Malaysia, a country described as not safe by the West, people are free to meet their leaders. The same cannot be said with the so-called safe countries in the West.

I hope Malaysians would not ape the West, but instead be thankful to the Almighty for the blessings that have been bestowed upon them. We must continue to play a responsible role in ensuring that we continue to live in harmony and prosperity.

I hope the West can learn a lesson or two about the way our country is governed, its experience in fighting terrorists successfully, and the peaceful coexistence of the various races and religions. It should stop harping on waging war on terrorism.

The West should look at itself first and correct itself before trying to correct others. The pot should not call the kettle black.

IDRUS ABU BAKAR

Ampang