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Agong-Message

MUSLIMS SHOULD ACQUIRE TRUE ISLAMIC TEACHINGS, SAYS AGONG

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 24 (Bernama) -- Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail wants Muslims in the country to equip themselves with true Islamic teachings and strive to enhance Islam's image as a religion that promotes unity and universal peace.

He said the terrorist acts of some Muslims had caused the religion to be labelled as one that advocated terrorism.

"We are sad that the citizens of this country are also involved in this terrorist phenomenon. Actually, they don't understand the true Islamic teachings but hide behind Islam to commit terrorism," he said in his Aidilfitri message.

He said Islam did not encourage terrorism. Instead, it advocated tolerance and non-conflict among Muslims themselves and between Muslims and followers of other religions in the world.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong also reminded the people to use the Aidilfitri celebration to strengthen ties among themselves to build a stronger and more tolerant society.

"For the non-Muslims, We call on them to join their Muslim neighbours, friends and colleagues in celebrating Aidilfitri.

"By so doing, it is hoped that racial understanding can be preserved and even enhanced in our multiracial society," he said.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin said Aidilfitri was celebrated to signify the Muslims' victory after a month-long fasting during Ramadan and as an opportunity to further promote ties among the community through traditional practices like visiting each other and holding open house.

He said this tradition must be continued because it was fundamental to the stability and harmony in the Malaysian society, while the government had implemented the Malaysian Open House concept for all major celebrations in the country.

He also hoped that as they celebrate Hari Raya, Muslims would not forget the less fortunate who need their help.

His Majesty was also happy to note that the recent change in the country's leadership had proceeded smoothly and hoped that the new prime minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, could take the country to greater heights.

"We are confident that with the full cooperation of the Cabinet, the public and private sector employees and all the people, the country will achieve the highest level of success under the stewardship of the right honourable prime minister.

"We also want to thank former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his contributions in placing Malaysia at its present level of success. We pray for his good health and success in all his endeavours," he said.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong also extended Hari Raya greetings to the police and armed forces personnel who have to work during the festive season to ensure peace and security for the people.

-- BERNAMA

AT KHY JK