

25/11/2003

Learn true teachings of Islam, King tells Muslims

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Muslims should equip themselves with the true teachings of Islam instead of becoming involved in activities such as terrorism, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin said today.

He said they should help the religion be seen as one that advocated peace and unity.

The King was disappointed with Malaysians who were involved in terrorism, adding that they did not understand what true Islam was about.

"Instead, they hide behind the religion to commit acts of terror in the name of upholding the religion or protecting the rights of others," he said in his Hari Raya message.

He said Muslims who were engaged in terrorism had shamed the pride and dignity of Muslims worldwide with their murders and destruction of property.

"They have caused Islam to be labelled as a religion which advocates terrorism.

"The truth is that Islam does not teach violence but promotes tolerance and peace among Muslims themselves and with (other) races.

"I call upon all Muslims here to equip themselves with the true teachings of Islam and to strive to improve the image of the religion as one that promotes unity and world peace," the King said.

He also extended Hari Raya wishes on behalf of the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah.

The King and Queen urged Muslims to use Hari Raya celebrations to improve ties with one another and with other races.

"Non-Muslims, too, should join their Muslim friends in the celebrations to build a stronger, more tolerant society."

He said Malaysians should continue the tradition of holding open house as such events were fundamental in maintaining stability and harmony.

"Even the Government knows the value of the open house and that's why it organises a national level one."

The King also reminded Muslims that Hari Raya was celebrated to mark the end of a month's fasting.

He added that Hari Raya was a time to help the needy, and that the payment of tithes and other donations should be done more regularly and not at Aidilfitri alone, as kindness was to be practised at all times.

The King also said he was happy that the recent transfer of power from former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had proceeded smoothly.

Thanking Dr Mahathir for his contributions to the nation, the King said he was confident that Abdullah would be able to take Malaysia to greater heights with the support of the Cabinet, civil servants, the private sector and the people.

The King and Queen also extended their Hari Raya greetings to personnel in the police and armed forces and acknowledged their sacrifice of being on duty during the festive season.

In Kuala Terengganu, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin called on all Muslims to celebrate Hari Raya by visiting each other and giving alms to the less fortunate.

He said such deeds were acts of praise and thanksgiving for Allah's goodness.

"Let us not forget our roles as Muslims in the world today as we

celebrate one of our most important festivals," he said in his Hari Raya message.

He also touched on the issue of terrorism, saying that while Islam stressed love and peace among mankind, some regarded them as terrorists.

"We should seek to change this view by practising Islam in every aspect of our lives and living in peace with Allah and with everyone around us," the Sultan added.