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MAHATHIR-MESSAGE  
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KUALALUMPUR, DEC 31 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT CALLED ON MALAYSIANS TO BE BRAVE IN EXPOSING +OPENLY+ MALPRACTICES IN THE GOVERNMENT SO THAT THE PROBLEM CAN BE OVERCOME JOINTLY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OR THE RUNNING DOWN OF CERTAIN PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE MADE +BEHIND THEIR BACKS+ BECAUSE THIS IN ITSELF WAS A FORM OF CORRUPT PRACTICE.

IN HIS NEW YEAR MESSAGE OVER RTM, HE REMINDED THE PEOPLE NOT TO BE OBSESSED WITH FINDING FAULTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OR CERTAIN PEOPLE OVER THE CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO BE TRUSTWORTHY.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS EMPHASISING ON TRUSTWORTHINESS BECAUSE UNTRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE WOULD BE A BURDEN TO SOCIETY, HE STRESSED.

+WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT JUST AS THE LACK OF TRUSTWORTHINESS AMONG OTHERS WILL HAMPER OUR WORK, THE LACK OF TRUSTWORTHINESS AMONG US WILL ALSO HAMPER THE WORK OF OTHERS, +THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HE SLAMMED CERTAIN GROUPS WHOM HE SAID REFUSED TO PRACTICE GOOD VALUES LIKE BEING CLEAN, EFFICIENT AND TRUSTWORTHY AND SHOW GOOD LEADERSHIP QUALITIES.

HE SAID THAT THEY ALSO PURPOSELY TRIED TO HAMPER THE PRACTICE OF SUCH VALUES, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THESE VALUES WERE EXPOUNDED BY ISLAM AND OTHER RELIGIONS.

HE TOLD EVERY MALAYSIAN CITIZEN TO BE DEDICATED AND SINCERE IN PRACTISING GOVERNMENT CONCEPTS WHICH WERE MEANT FOR THEIR WELLBEING. THIS SHOULD BE THEIR RESOLUTION FOR 1985, HE POINTED OUT.

MALAYSIA HE SAID, WITH THE VAST NATURAL RESOURCES, FERTILE LAND, HIGH QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND BEING FREE FROM NATURAL DISASTERS, HAD THE POTENTIAL OF BECOMING A DEVELOPED NATION SOONER THAN THE TIME REQUIRED BY OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT EVERY TIME THE GOVERNMENT FORMULATED A POLICY OR IMPLEMENTED A MOVE, ITS INTENTION WAS TO BENEFIT THE PEOPLE. --- MORE

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THE GOVERNMENT STRESSED ON UNITY BECAUSE IT WAS THE BASIS FOR STABILITY AND RESILIENCE, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, UNITY COULD NOT PREVAIL IF RACIAL ISSUES CONTINUED TO BE STIRRED UP, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WERE EFFORTS BY IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS TO CREATE RACIAL ILL-FEELING AND PROPAGATE FANATISM, THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE REJECTED SUCH ACTIVITIES.

POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH TRIED TO PLAY UP SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ALSO FAILED TO ACHIEVE THEIR DESIRED OBJECTIVES, HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT MALAYSIA WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PEACEFUL AND PROGRESSIVE IF THE PEOPLE ACCEPTED REALITY.

MEANWHILE, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK MUSA HITAM WHO IS ON LEAVE OVERSEAS AFTER PERFORMING THE UMRAH IN MECCA, ALSO WISHED MALAYSIANS A HAPPY NEW YEAR. -- BERNAMA

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