

PM on need to further strengthen harmony

BT 14 FEB 1991

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his Chinese New Year message has stressed the need for Malaysians to further strengthen understanding and harmony among them.

He is confident that Malaysian Chinese together with other Malaysians will strive towards national stability and solidarity.

The Prime Minister expressed his joy over the Malaysian tradition of holding open house during the various festivals.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah wished all Malaysian Chinese a happy and prosperous new year.

Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu in his Chinese New Year message said the celebrations will contribute to greater understanding and harmony among Malaysians of various races.

Datuk Seri Samy Vellu and his wife extended Chinese New Year greetings to the people.

Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik in his message said, "Malaysians, in particular Malaysian Chinese, must once again rededicate and reaffirm themselves towards building a peaceful, united and prosperous nation."

Malaysian Chinese must steadfastly continue to play a positive role in strengthening national unity and political stability to ensure sustained economic growth and a better life for all Malaysians.

He said, Malaysian Chinese being pragmatic and realising the political reality must surge forward with positive thinking to bring about a Malaysian nation whereby all Malaysians could play a more meaningful role in national development.

He urged Malaysian Chinese to rededicate themselves to "thinking and acting as Malaysians".

They should resist all forms of racism, communalism, chauvinism and extremism, Datuk Seri Dr Lim said.

Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, in his Chinese New Year message, said yesterday the people should make a concerted effort to promote goodwill and harmony among the various ethnic groups in the state.

"Occasions such as this, therefore, provide us with the opportunity to reflect on the meaning and relevance of these festivals in the context of our multi-racial and multi-religious society," he said.

He said this was not only a time to strengthen family ties but also to renew old acquaintances and establish good relations with our neighbours regardless of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. —
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