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Mahathir-democracy

MALAYSIA PEACEFUL BECAUSE THE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND DEMOCRACY

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JITRA, Dec 17 (Bernama) --- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir

Mohamad said today the country is peaceful because the people understand democracy, are disciplined and able to curb their emotions.

He said that Malaysia was not an easy country to rule because of its multi-racial and multi-religious nature but peace could be perpetuated because the people know how to conduct themselves.†

He said that Malaysia was now a model country because of its success in maintaining peace in this complex world and some countries would like to emulate Malaysia.

†If at one time many foreigners say that we are undemocratic because we oppress people, now they are coming to Malaysia to get to know how the multi-racial community in the country could live in harmony. † He said at the †Sepetang Bersama Perdana Menteri† function at Sekolah Kebangsaan Seri Banai here.

He said that there were even university researchers wishing to conduct studies on how the multi-racial society could live in harmony and develop the country together. -- more

†17/12/21-04MST

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The Prime Minister said that the peace in this country could change if the people, trade unions and political parties did not appreciate democracy.

†We give the freedom to workers to set up trade unions but if they frequently stage strikes to demand for higher wages but lower their productivity, the prices of goods will increase and the people themselves will face hardship,† he said.

He said that the country would be in chaos if political parties were constantly at loggerheads, stage demonstrations and hurl insults.

Dr Mahathir also said that the people's understanding of democracy could deter leaders from pursuing self interest because under the democratic system the people had the right to change such leaders.

He also reminded the people that democracy did not provide absolute freedom. -- Bernama

†17/12/21-05MST