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Mahathir-Message

DR MAHATHIR WISHES HAPPY NEW YEAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, wished the Chinese community a Happy New Year.

Dr Mahathir said Chinese New Year this year is rather special as it is being celebrated almost at the same time as Hari Raya and the double festival reflects the uniqueness of racial relations in the country.

"It is clear that the difference in race and religion do not prevent the people from celebrating the festival together," he said in his Chinese New Year message.

He said the high degree of tolerance among the people of various races and religions enable the people to live in unity and to cooperate in a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere.

All this have a good effect on the nation's economic situation and to the people of the various races, he added.

Dr Mahathir said it was this spirit that the government always tried to promote to perpetuate the harmonious relations between the races in the country.

This, he said, was important to ensure that the country remained strong and stable not only from the aspect of race relations but also development and progress of the nation.

In conjunction with the Chinese New Year, the people of various races should celebrate it as usual by visiting their friends who held open house, he said.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, who is MCA president, said it was fortunate that Malays and Chinese could celebrate their respective festivals happily.

This is due to the political stability, racial harmony, economic progress and prosperity of the people, he added.

Dr Ling hoped the people would not forget the poor and less fortunate when they celebrate their festivals as this was important towards creating a caring society. -- BERNAMA

JM MTA RM