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Let's stay united in tackling economic problems

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MALAYSIA is a mature, blessed, harmonious and peace-loving country.

At a time when the country is facing economic problems, Malaysians stand united, and this is our greatest asset and our way of life.

We are capable of tackling the problems calmly, in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and in the spirit of love for the nation.

Malaysians have learnt bitter lessons during hard times and do not forget them when the situation improves.

I vividly remember that during the days of inflation in 1974 when everyone was urged to grow their own vegetables, Malaysians responded positively.

Today, we are hearing the same call and are responding to it.

It would be wrong to panic in face of the current economic situation. Malaysia boleh! Malaysia boleh! Malaysia boleh (can) overcome its problems with the help and understanding of its multi-racial community.

It is a fact that Malaysia has been able to stay democratic without being unstable since its independence. And Malaysians have become more united, always electing a Government in which every race is represented.

I welcome Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's assurance that the economy of the country is stable and that Malaysia will pull through calmly, diplomatically and democratically.

Malaysia's strength lies in the unity and solidarity of its multi-racial, multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-lingual society.

May God bless the nation, its leaders and its people with wisdom, courage and determination.