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PPP TO HOLD NEW YEAR "OPEN HOUSE" ON FRIDAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is happy to see the progress made by the People's Progressive Party (PPP) and the ability of the Barisan Nasional (BN) component party to overcome its internal problems.

Dr Mahathir said this in his congratulatory message to the PPP in conjunction with its "open house" for 1999 and breaking of fast ceremony to be held at the Putra World Trade Centre here this Friday.

He said the unity and cooperation among the multi-racial members of the PPP in achieving its economic, educational, social and political objectives should be praised.

"We hope we could all be united in our efforts and to set aside personal, political and racial interests by giving priority to the people and country in reviving the economy," said Dr Mahathir, who is also the BN chairman.

He also congratulated the PPP for holding the open house and breaking of fast ceremony.

As a multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious country, he said the practice of holding open houses was appropriate and it could help instill the spirit of solidarity and understanding among the people.

Dr Mahathir said holding an open house in the month of Ramadan would help expose non-Muslims to one of the practices of Muslims in fulfilling their religious duties without jeopardizing the principles of the multi-racial society in the country.

PPP president Datuk M. Kayveas said in a statement today that the open house would be held between 7pm and 10pm.

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