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New Year-Messages

LEADERS CALL FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR DR MAHATHIR'S LEADERSHIP

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- Political leaders in their Chinese New Year Message have urged the people to continue supporting the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to ensure speedy economic recovery.

They also want the people to maintain unity and peace in the country.

MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said solid support from all levels of society for Dr Mahathir would speed up economic recovery for the benefit of everyone.

He said signs of economic recovery were becoming increasingly clear as reflected in the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE) Composite Index which was almost at 600 points recently after being at a low of 200 points not long before.

"We hope the people will continue to give their solid support to the government in whatever measures it takes to revive the economy," he said on the occasion of the Year of the Rabbit which begins on Feb 16.

Dr Ling said the people should stand together, act together and work together in facing the challenges of the present economic slowdown just as they were united when the economy was doing well.

He urged the people to be grateful over the country's good fortune in being led by Dr Mahathir who was wise, farsighted and had wide experience.

Dr Mahathir had the capacity to lead the country out of the present economic turmoil, he said.

Dr Ling said that on the occasion of the New Year, Malaysians should resolve to make today better than yesterday and tomorrow better than today.

"If we are all prepared to do this, the country will be headed for even greater progress," he said.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik in his Chinese New Year message, urged all Malaysians, especially the Chinese community not to be disheartened by the economic downturn.

Dr Lim who is Primary Industries Minister urged them to redouble their efforts to rejuvenate the country's economy.

He said all Malaysians including the Chinese community had reaped the fruits of the country's progress and development under the leadership of Dr Mahathir.

Dr Lim said this was the right time for all Malaysians to show their support for the government and for its efforts to steer the country back to its status as a leading economic powerhouse.

"Now that the country is facing an economic turmoil which is engulfing half the world, it is only right for Malaysians to remain supportive and show their loyalty to the Government through their efforts to overcome the crisis," he said.

He said that the government had effectively stopped currency speculators by introducing currency controls but further efforts to revive the country's economy would be meaningless and unsuccessful without the people's support.

MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu also urged Malaysians to continue to support the government.

He reminded them to be wary of attempts by certain groups to create disunity in the country.

"We must remain united to speed up our economic recovery," Samy Vellu said in his message.

Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang in wishing Malaysians a Happy Chinese New Year said the Year of the Tiger was not only a year of crisis for the "tiger economies" it was also a year of "triple crises for Malaysia - economic, political and moral - with no real let-up or solution in sight."

"The critical question is whether the Year of the Rabbit can usher the country out of the woods of the triple crises," he said in his message.

On a more personal note, Lim said this year's celebration would be painful for him and his family with his son, Guan Eng in Kajang Prison.

-- BERNAMA

MNY MHI AAM