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Political leaders urge people to support government

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - 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 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.

Chinese New Year, the Year of the Rabbit, will be celebrated on Tuesday and Wednesday.

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 for 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 called on the people to remain united in supporting government moves to steer the country out of the current economic situation and achieve goals under the Vision 2020 concept.

In his Chinese New Year message, he urged everyone, especially the Chinese community, to work hard and exercise prudence to rejuvenate the economy.

He said they should not be disheartened by the economic situation.

Recounting the rewards of the country's progress and development reaped by all Malaysians, Dr Lim said:

"Now that the country is facing 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.

"This is the right moment for all Malaysians to show their support for the Government which has effectively stopped currency speculators from further damaging the country's economy by implementing currency controls."

He said efforts to revive the economy would be meaningless and, most likely unsuccessful, without the support of the people.

Reminding Malaysians that the Government had successfully overcome the communist insurgency and the racial riots in May 1969, he said the people should be very thankful for the lifestyle enjoyed today.

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.

Sarawak Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak Tun Ahmad Zaidi Adruce Muhammed Noor advised Malaysians to be grateful that they have a government that is strong and has succeeded in bringing about racial harmony.

He said the peaceful situation in Malaysia was in contrast to the conditions in some other countries where oppression and killings were rampant.

"The prosperity, harmony and national stability seen now is a success that also reflects the people's maturity to think and act when dealing with any challenge that arises."

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