

05 NOV 1999

Deepavali-Message

SHOW THE WORLD HOW UNITED WE ARE, SAYS SAMY VELLU

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- MIC president Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu has called on Hindus in the country to show the world how united Malaysians are by inviting as many people from the different faiths to their Deepavali "open house".

"By doing so, it will not only foster racial unity but also bear testimony to a united Malaysia, blessed with political stability and economic progress," he said in his Deepavali message.

Deepavali is on Sunday.

Samy Vellu said some outsiders were out to portray Malaysia as a country wrecked by political and economic havoc so as to divide and make the people hate the government.

Malaysians should also be wary of attempts by certain quarters to stir racial hatred, said Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister.

Certain quarters were using racial issues to destroy the unity fostered by the Barisan Nasional (BN) government in the last 42 years, he said.

"But thanks to the strong commitment and will shown by the people, we have managed to ward off their evil attempts and remained strong and united till today," he said.

Emphasising that Deepavali is about good prevailing over evil, Samy Vellu called on Malaysians to renew their commitment to making the country a better place to live in and turning this year's Deepavali a unique celebration this millennium.

"Let us make this Deepavali yet another memorable one not only for us but to our beloved country," he said, expressing hope that the "open house" tradition be sustained as part of the Malaysian culture.

Samy Vellu said the Indian community, comprising 80 per cent Hindus, had reaped many benefits brought about by the BN government and without exception, they too stand to enjoy more spin-offs from the 2000 Budget tabled a week ago.

Calling on the Indians to continue supporting the governing BN coalition and the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he said the new millennium would see new opportunities and challenges for them.

Samy Vellu and wife Datin Seri Indrani wished all Hindus a very Happy Deepavali.

In his message, Cuepacs president N.Siva Subramaniam said as Malaysian Hindus celebrate Deepavali, they should be thankful for the prevalent peace and racial harmony in the country.

Moreover, this year's Deepavali would also be celebrated at a time of steady economic recovery but with no burdensome increase in prices of goods.

"We must treasure the peace the country offers. We have to play a more important role in bringing about further progress to Malaysia," he added.

Malaysia Hindu Sangam president A. Vaithilingam reminded Deepavali merry-makers against consuming alcohol because Deepavali should be observed as a holy day meant for prayers and thanksgiving.

He criticised the Tamil newspapers for their daily excessively colourful liquor advertisements in the last few weeks while the Malay-language and some of the English-language newspapers have totally excluded alcohol advertisements.

DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang also wished all Malaysian Hindus a very Happy Deepavali.

"Let Deepavali 1999 usher in a new millennium where good triumphs over evil, starting with the restoration of justice, freedom, democracy and good governance of Malaysia," Lim said.

-- BERNAMA

HS RYN