

PM: Work to create a model society

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Call to all Malaysians on Wesak Day today

By Ramlan Said

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. -- Wesak Day is a manifestation of the religious freedom practised by Malaysians of various races and religions, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Although Islam is the official religion, the people are able to practise other religions, he added.

"In conjunction with Wesak Day, I hope all Buddhists will renew their commitment and efforts, together with other Malaysians, to create a model society which is patient, tolerant, understanding and which respects each other," he said in his Wesak Day message.

Wesak Day is celebrated tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir said Buddhism was a respected religion as it advocated

charity and love in human relations.

This, he said, was proven by the active participation of Buddhists in various charitable and social activities in the country.

"They have also proven that they are committed to developing a society that cherishes a peaceful and harmonious environment among Malaysians of all religions.

"They are willing to sacrifice for the long-term benefits of a multi-racial society."

He said Wesak Day was a meaningful celebration for Buddhists in view of its importance in the religion's history and its founder Gautama Buddha.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali wished all Malaysian Buddhists a happy Wesak Day.