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#### Open house tradition continues

SPURRED by the encouraging economic signs, the Chinese community yesterday celebrated the new lunar year with confidence that it will bring greater prosperity.

Being the first "Year of the Golden Dragon" in the new millennium, it added greater significance to the celebrations. The mood and joyous atmosphere was unmistakable.

As usual, Malaysians of all races joined to wish their Chinese friends a Happy New Year at open house.

Among the stream of visitors were foreign tourists, captivated by the unique way in which Malaysians of all races celebrate the various festivals together.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datuk Seri Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali attended the MCA open house at Wisma MCA in Kuala Lumpur where they were greeted by a lion dance.

He then visited the Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia open house at its headquarters in Menara PGRM in Cheras before joining several other Cabinet Ministers at a new year luncheon hosted by Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding at the Palace of the Golden Horses.

Other national leaders, dignitaries and diplomats also turned up for the open house.

In Seremban, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad and his wife Puan Sri Hazizah Tumin were among some 5,000 people who streamed to the State MCA's Chinese New Year open house.

Held at the Seremban Municipal Council hall, guests were greeted with colourful lion dances and entertained by local singers.

On hand to receive the guests were State MCA chief Datuk Wong See Wah, his deputy State Executive Councillor Datuk Dr Yeow Chai Thiam, Deputy Education Minister Datuk Hon Choon Kim and Rasah MP Datuk Goh Siow Huat. Leaders of the State Barisan Nasional component parties were also present.

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