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PM calls on Malaysians to continue with their spirit of tolerance

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Malaysians to continue with their spirit of tolerance which has brought many benefits and achievements to the country.

In his Chinese New Year message, the Prime Minister said even though the country's administration was led by Muslims, the Government had never restricted the followers of other religions from practising their faith or cultures.

"In fact, minorities in Malaysia are very fortunate," he said.

He said Malaysians of various races and religions were rational people who valued peace and harmony.

"Celebrations to mark the Year of the Dragon will no doubt be more joyful and meaningful this time, not only because it is being observed in the new millennium, but also because the country is now free from economic pressures."

Dr Mahathir said the people should also be grateful that this country was not badly affected by the economic turmoil which hit the region. Most of them could still lead a comfortable life.

"Nevertheless, we should learn from this incident as we have seen the destruction it had caused in some countries," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali joined Dr Mahathir in wishing all Malaysian Chinese "Selamat Tahun Baru".

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