

07 JAN 2000

Raya-Message (Samy Vellu)

SAMY VELLU HOPES UNITY AND PEACE WILL PREVAIL IN THE COUNTRY

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 7 (Bernama) -- MIC National President Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu has expressed the hope that the unity and peace enjoyed by Malaysians in the past will continue to prevail in future.

In his Hari Raya message, he was confident that Malaysia would continue to progress now that the economy had been revived and the country was at peace.

"I hope Muslims will celebrate this Hari Raya joyfully and happily," said Samy Vellu who is also Works Minister.

The "open house" tradition would no doubt help strengthen unity among people of various races and religions in the country, he said.

In the spirit of Hari Raya, Samy Vellu urged Malaysians to forget all misunderstandings and arguments of the pre-general election period and focus on goodwill and friendship now that the elections were over.

"Now is the time to forgive one another and strengthen unity. This has been the basis of the country's strength and will be so for the next 100 years," he added.

Samy Vellu and his wife Datin Seri Indrani wished all Muslims "Selamat Hari Raya."

Cuepacs President N.Siva Subramaniam wished civil servants "Selamat Hari Raya" and expressed the hope they would continue to upgrade their productivity so that the country would have a civil service that was foremost in the world.

Siva was confident that on the occasion of Hari Raya pre-election differences would be forgotten and the civil service would work as a team to further develop the country.

DAP Chairman Lim Kit Siang in his Hari Raya message said his party would work for continued peace, justice, freedom, democracy and good administration in Malaysia.

The DAP was doing this in line with the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his New Year 2000 message to all Malaysians irrespective of race or religion or political beliefs to cooperate for the good of the country and put an end to politics of hatred and division.

"In this spirit, I will visit the open house of Dr Mahathir, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Ministers, Umno leaders and Barisan Nasional leaders," Lim said.

President of the The Malaysian Consultative Council of Sikhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Buddhism A.Vaithilingam in his Hari Raya message called on the people to pray that the appreciation and understanding of the multi-religious society would bring greater joy and prosperity to a peaceful and harmonious nation.

Commander of the Eighth Malaysian Infantry Brigade Brig Jeneral Hashim Yahya in his Hari Raya message urged his men to ensure their safety and that of their families when returning to their kampungs.

"As you go healthily, you must also return healthily," he said.

The General advised the soldiers to spend wisely for the Hari Raya celebrations as they would also have to meet the expenses of their school going children.

Hashim also wanted the soldiers to ensure the security of the military camps even as they celebrated Hari Raya.

Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali in his Hari Raya message urged the people to unite under the state government leadership to ensure effective implementation of development programmes.

"We have to stand strong and place our full trust in the state government leadership to draw up and implement development programmes," he said.

Without the cooperation of the people it would be difficult for the government to implement the planned projects to develop Perak and bring it on par with other states, he said.

Tajol Rosli expressed his appreciation to the security forces for serving with full dedication and loyalty.

He also urged people driving home to exercise extra care on the roads.

PPP President Datuk M.Kayveas also wished all Malaysian Muslims Selamat Hari Raya Aidil Fitri.

-- BERNAMA

HJ AAM