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Dr M: Beware of instigators trying to destabilise country

PUTRAJAYA, Mon. - In reminding the people of attempts to undermine the country's religious and racial harmony, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on the people not to allow certain quarters to abuse democratic freedom to destabilise the country.

In his Christmas message, the Prime Minister said many instigators, local and abroad, were attempting to disrupt the remarkable inter-racial relations.

He said these groups had disguised themselves as fighters for democracy and human rights.

"These quarters will try to trigger chaos which can jeopardise the country's stability. All their struggles are laced with vested political interests.

"We cannot allow them to misuse the democratic freedom and rule of law in the country to threaten our stability and achievements which have been brought about through painstaking efforts," Dr Mahathir said.

Therefore, he said, Malaysians should not be complacent and lulled by the peace and security in the country.

The Prime Minister was happy that Christmas in the country could be celebrated in a peaceful and harmonious atmosphere, although the world was facing an economic crisis due to the events which took place this year.

"It is a year full of disasters, due to the doings of men. Violence and war have claimed thousands of innocent lives like those in the United States, Afghanistan and Palestine. In some countries, the people are still suffering from all sorts of problems.

"However, people in this country live freely and comfortably. We are very fortunate because we are able to tolerate one another despite the difference in religion," he said.

The Prime Minister, his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and the Government also wish Merry Christmas to those celebrating the festive season.

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