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Mahathir-Wesak

RATIONALITY HAS HELPED MAINTAIN PEACE AND SECURITY, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the rationality and the continuous support of the majority of the people for the government's efforts have helped to maintain peace and security in the country.

He said that even though of late there were certain quarters attempting to destroy unity and create chaos, such attempts had not been successful because of this attitude of the majority of the people.

"We are fortunate because the majority of the people are still rational and continue to support the government's efforts to maintain peace and security through the enforcement of existing laws," he said in his message in conjunction with Wesak Day tomorrow.

The prime minister also reiterated that the right and freedom of the people in the country, even those from minority groups, were still protected under the country's constitution and laws.

He said that the people in the country were most fortunate as tolerance and the culture long preserved had brought about unity and harmony among the people.

"We have adopted this formula since our country attained independence. Its effectiveness has been proven as the government has succeeded in developing the country and create opportunities for the people to seek progress and prosperity," he said.

Referring to the Wesak Day celebration, Dr Mahathir said that large-scale religious celebrations were the manifestation of the government's policy of freedom of religion endorsed by the people in the country.

The prime minister said that even though Islam had been recognised as the official religion of the country and Muslims comprise the majority population, other races had not been denied their freedom to practise their respective religions.

"It is also true in terms of language, customs and traditions. Every race is free to speak their own language and practise their own customs and traditions without any restriction," he said.

Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali wished Malaysian Buddhists "Happy Wesak Day" with the hope that they would further enhance relations among the various races in the country and contribute towards the country's development and well-being.

He said that even though the celebration was to commemorate the various important events in the life of its founder, Gautama Buddha, what was vital was the call to do good and to be magnanimous.

-- BERNAMA

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