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Mahathir-Christmas

REFRAIN FROM COMPLACENCY, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Malaysians should not be complacent and lulled by the peace and security in the country.

This was because there were many instigators within and outside the country trying to destroy the country's racial and religious harmony.

"Hiding behind the cloak of democracy and human rights, they will try to create trouble that could affect stability in the country," he said in his Christmas message.

Dr Mahathir said that these people had a certain political motive.

He said that the people should not allow these groups to abuse democratic freedom and rule of law in the country to threaten the nation's stability which had been brought about through painstaking efforts.

"If today, Christians and followers of other religions are able to practise their respective religions, it is because we have a government which is concerned over the people's well-being," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that he was happy that Christmas in the country could be celebrated in a calm and perfect environment even though the world was in a state of crisis and facing economic recession as a result of several tragic events this year.

"This year is full of man-made disasters. Wars and aggression have continued, claiming thousands of innocent lives like in the United States, Afghanistan and Palestine," he said.

The prime minister said that in some countries, the people continued to be under threat and suffering from hardships due to all sorts of crisis compared to this country where the people were enjoying peace and freedom.

He said that the people in the country were most fortunate as they were moderate and ever tolerant of each other.

"With a reminder on the basis of religious freedom in our country Malaysia, the government, my wife and I would like to wish all Malaysian Christians a Merry Christmas," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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