

06 DEC 2001

Senate-Mahathir (Spending)

SPEND FOR RAYA, YULETIDE, CNY MERRY-MAKING, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 6 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is encouraging Malaysians to spend for their Hari Raya, Christmas and Chinese New Year merry-making to help boost the country's economic activity and growth.

As for the government, he said it had already taken various measures to raise the people's income through personal income tax relief and payment of bonus as well as other incentive allowances.

When tabling the 2002 Supply Bill at the Dewan Negara here today, he urged Malaysians to beautify and light up cities, towns, villages and homes for the festive occasions.

"Let us prove to the world that Malaysia is a prosperous and peaceful nation," he said.

With Hari Raya Aidil Fitri approaching, Muslims in Malaysia shall celebrate in peace their accomplishment of a month of fasting in Ramadan unlike those in some other Muslim countries who have to observe the occasion amidst war, terror and disaster, he said.

He said the prevailing peace and harmony allowed Malaysians to perform their religious obligations without encumbrances.

"This results from our success in nation-building and out of the government's concern over the people's well-being. This speaks of the country's continued prosperity and stability," he said.

Dr Mahathir urged the people to double efforts in generating robust domestic economic activities in the wake of uncertain outlook and challenges ahead.

He said the people's mastery of knowledge and their increased productivity would be the key to Malaysia achieving greater resilience and advancement.

"I am convinced that with God's blessing, we shall be able to mould Malaysia into a progressive, peaceful and prosperous nation whose integrity and independence command the respect of the international community," he added.

-- BERNAMA

RZS RZS RYN