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Deepavali-Message
UNITY KEY TO SUCCESS, SAYS SAMY VELLU

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysians must not forgo unity that they have maintained over the last three decades as only through closer relationship could the country forge ahead and achieve prosperity for the people, MIC President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

"Since independence, unity has been our strong point and this should be maintained at all costs," he said in his Deepavali message.

He said the people should take time off on this auspicious occasion to ponder over events of last year where mistakes made should be corrected and not repeated.

"On this happy occasion all Malaysians should thank the government and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for preserving peace and ensuring prosperity in the country," said Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister.

"The people are happy because of the government and the leadership of Dr Mahathir...government servants receive bonus while the world economic turmoil has done minimal damage to the people. We should thank everyone who have worked for us to be in this comfortable environment," he said.

Meanwhile, People's Progress Party (PPP) President Datuk M. Kayveas in his message said Malaysians were very fortunate as the country continued to enjoy stability in politics, economy and social against the backdrop of political and economic uncertainty globally.

"Our government has succeeded in preserving racial unity and carrying out smoothly the development agenda of the country," he said.

He said that as Malaysians celebrated Deepavali, it showed the unity that had prevailed among the people since independence.

"Malaysia's strive for excellence in its own way is more meaningful especially the world powers recognise our methods," he said.

Kayveas said the government's move to include Deepavali as one of the country's major festivals was consistent with the aspirations of the people to create a united and progressive Malaysian race.

"Deepavali is no longer that of the Indian community of the Hindu faith. All Malaysians have the right to say 'Happy Deepavali' and celebrate it in an atmosphere of peace and harmony," he said.

Cuepacs President Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam, in his Deepavali message, said Malaysians should be grateful for being able to celebrate the occasion in peace and tranquility.

"Malaysians should strongly oppose violence. They should take advantage of the celebration to visit one another," he said.

He said the bonus given to government servants before the Deepavali and Hari Raya showed that the government cared for the people.

Meanwhile, DAP national chairman Lim Kit Siang in wishing all Malaysian Hindus a Happy Deepavali said a four-point action plan was needed to combat the "darkness in Malaysia" that caused the marginalisation of the Indians here.

"Let Malaysian Hindus as well as all Malaysians regardless of race unite on Deepavali this year to combat and overcome the darkness in the Malaysian society, particularly Indians, whether because of poverty, educational deprivation, social degradation and other forms of human rights violations," he said.

DAP secretary general Kerk Kim Hock in his message said Malaysians must be strong in their resolve to maintain the secular democratic fabric of the

nation.

"To do this we must fervently oppose and resist those who want to deny our pluralistic society which has been built on a multi-religious, multi-cultural and multi-racial pedestal," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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