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United we win, says Samy Vellu

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Malaysians must not forgo the unity they have maintained over the last three decades. Only through this sense of oneness can the country forge ahead and achieve prosperity, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said.

"Since independence, unity has been our strong point and this should be maintained at all costs," said Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister, in his Deepavali message.

Bernama quoted him as saying the people should take time off on this auspicious occasion to ponder the events of last year. 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.

"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 has worked for us to be in this position of comfort."

People's Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk M. Kayveas in his message said Malaysians were fortunate the country continued to enjoy stability despite global political and economic uncertainty.

"Our Government has preserved racial unity and carried out the development agenda of the country smoothly."

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

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.

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

Parti Rakyat Malaysia president Dr Syed Husin Ali in his message said that as the people celebrated Deepavali with their relatives and friends, they should not forget the main message of the event which was struggling to preserve justice and truth and to eradicate cruelty and oppression.

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

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