

25 DEC 2001

USE FESTIVITIES TO ENHANCE RACIAL TIES, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 25 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Malaysian practice of joining in the religious festivals of other races can strengthen ties and unity among the people.

This practice had become a Malaysian culture, the prime minister said today.

"This way we can understand each other's religion and enhance relationship to maintain peace in our country.

"In Malaysia we visit one another during celebrations," he told a news conference when attending the Christmas open house jointly organised by the Malaysian Christian Federation and Roman Catholic Archbishop Rev Anthony Fernandez at Jalan Bukit Nenas here.

Wishing Christians a Merry Christmas, Dr Mahathir said non-Muslims had also joined him for breaking of fast during the recent Ramadan.

The prime minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali also attended the open house.

-- BERNAMA

RZS NZ YBY