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# Let's be thankful for situation in country, says PM

PUTRAJAYA, Wed: Malaysians are fortunate to be able to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri in peace, unlike many other countries which face problems such as war.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the country is also prosperous, which enables the government to give a 10% pay rise to its employees this year in the hope of easing their burden.

Speaking at an Aidilfitri gathering organised by the Prime Minister's Department here, he said: "That is why we should be thankful for the situation in our country and think about the good that has come from our moderate stand and love for peace."

Mahathir was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali.

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman, National Economic Action Council (NEAC) executive director Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, and staff of the department.

Mahathir also said the shift to Putrajaya has resulted in a formation of a new community and expressed the hope that it will grow.

He said Putrajaya has become a city which is similar to other cities.

"This is the result of the work done by all government staff, especially those from the Prime Minister's Department," he said.