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Mahathir-Wesak

RACIAL DIFFERENCES CREATE TOLERANCE AMONG MALAYSIANS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 25 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the existence of the various races, religions and customs has taught Malaysians the need to understand and respect each other's differences.

The prime minister said the tolerance which Malaysians are famous for was built on this.

"Although we have our differences, we have succeeded in forming a close understanding and unity among the multiracial people.

"There are not many countries where the people of various races, religions and customs can live in peace like us in Malaysia," he said in his message in conjunction with Wesak Day tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir said although the majority of Malaysians were Muslims, the followers of other religions were not oppressed and were free to observe their religious festivals without fear or threat.

He said that just like the other religions, Wesak Day was a day for the Buddhists to do good to others, including all living things, and to give alms and aid to the less fortunate.

"That's what religion teaches. No matter what the religion, it preaches good things. No religion preaches evil," he said.

Wesak Day is observed to commemorate the birth and enlightenment of Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism.

-- BERNAMA

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