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New Year-Messages

MALAYSIANS MORE CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED FOR STABILITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10 (Bernama) -- MCA President and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik has said Malaysians have become more conscious of the need to preserve the nation's stability, racial harmony and national security following the aircraft incidents on Sept 11 last year in the United States.

Close cooperation between the people and the government was an important factor in ensuring that Malaysia continued to be peaceful and prosperous, he said in his Chinese New Year Message.

"The people's thinking has changed a lot in the last few months and their support for the Barisan Nasional (BN) Government which practised the principles of moderation and tolerance has been increasing."

Dr Ling said Malaysians held in high esteem the government's efforts to stimulate the economy, safeguard national security particularly in checking the terrorist threats from extremist religious groups and militants.

He said the BN victory in the Indera Kayangan by-election last month once again proved the people's strong support for the BN Government of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad which practised liberal and moderate policies.

Dr Ling said the spirit of unity shown by MCA leaders and members during the by-election should be preserved to overcome all problems within the party and to enable the MCA political agenda to benefit the country and people.

Wishing all Malaysians a happy new year, he expressed the hope that Malaysians would visit the open house as the harmonious atmosphere would strengthen unity and national integration.

"According to Chinese belief, the Year of the Horse symbolised agility, progress and success. I am convinced all this can be achieved for our country and for ourselves with determined efforts and a great spirit for struggle," Dr Ling said.

Gerakan President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik in his message said Malaysians must continuously build unity, peace and harmony and ensure that extremism would not have an opportunity to rear its ugly head in Malaysia.

"We should constantly remind ourselves that it is because many of us, who value the peace and stability that we enjoy now, have constantly made a conscious effort to respect each other's sensitivities and need, that we have been able to come so far," he said.

He was confident that the majority of Malaysians would guard jealously the formula of success.

As Malaysians celebrate another new year of the Lunar calendar, he said they should also remind themselves of the need to minimise differences and concentrate on strengthening the economy, said Dr Lim, who is Primary Industries Minister.

Wishing all Malaysians a joyful and prosperous new year, Dr Lim urged the people to rededicate themselves to promoting goodwill and tolerance by visiting the open house during this auspicious occasion.

President of the Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) Senator Datuk M.Kayveas said Malaysians must be thankful for being able to celebrate Chinese New Year in an atmosphere of harmony and unity.

He said Malaysians should also take pride over their strong of bond unity which had been the pillar of success all this while.

"We can see that other countries are facing various economic, political

and social problems which had given rise to a life of turmoil. Hence Malaysians should appreciate the present government's ability to administer Malaysia well," said Kayveas who is Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister.

On the occasion of the Year of the Horse which symbolised strength, agility and speed, Kayveas said Malaysians should also have the strength and the fortitude to strive for success and continued development.

Malaysians in their spirit of patriotism should appreciate the freedom and progress that the country had achieved and be ready to defend its sovereignty from the threat of anti-national elements.

-- BERNAMA

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