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PM: Treasure the values that bind Malaysians

THE values that keep the nation peaceful and harmonious bring great benefit to Malaysians, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

In his Christmas message, he said the world's many racial and religious disputes did not influence peaceful Malaysians.

"We can give thanks and be proud that the oppression of Muslims and non-Muslims in other countries is strongly opposed by Malaysians, whether Muslim or not. There are non-Muslim volunteers, including Christians, from Malaysia who contribute to Muslims in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Palestine."

This was one of Malaysia's strengths, he said, as its citizens were concerned with humanity and not race, religion or politics.

He also said Malaysians were fortunate to live in peace despite having different religions, cultures, languages and races, due to their high level of tolerance.

"I am happy that Christians in Malaysia can again celebrate this day with great joy and cheer, just like other religious celebrations in the country."

The Prime Minister conveyed the season's greetings on behalf of his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, and the Government to all celebrating the festive season.