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Mahathir-New Year

NEW YEAR SHOULD BE AN OCCASION TO STRENGTHEN TIES- PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10 (Bernama) --The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, has urged Malaysians to make use of the occasion of the Chinese New Year to strengthen ties among them.

By visiting the Chinese New Year open house, Malaysians could foster closer relations with one another and ensure the harmony and wellbeing of the country, he said in his Chinese New Year message released by the Prime Minister's office.

"On this auspicious occasion of the Chinese New Year, I once again urge all Malaysians irrespective of their race and religion to come together and joyfully celebrate the new year," the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir, who is now on a visit to Antarctica, expressed the hope that Malaysians would pause and ponder on the privilege of being nationals of Malaysia, a peaceful, prosperous and stable nation.

Expressing confidence that the Chinese New Year this time would be joyful like in previous years, the Prime Minister said the people should be grateful in this uncertain world particularly from the aspect of the economy as they did not face too many hurdles and sufferings.

"When we hold open house for our friends and relatives, food and drinks overflow in large amounts," he said.

"The poor and less fortunate are also not forgotten and are entertained by those who have the means. This is the beauty of the Malaysian life."

The Prime Minister said this luxury did not come by itself but with the effort and cooperation of Malaysians of all races, religions, languages and cultures who had chosen the path of moderation, unity and a peaceful and harmonious life.

He said Malaysia had proved to be a success and the country was greatly respected by the international community as the most developed of the developing nations.

Malaysia's prosperity had attracted foreigners to come to Malaysia in large numbers in search of jobs and investment.

However a small group was bound to be dissatisfied and would make all kinds of demands and apply pressure on the government to champion its narrow agenda.

"We should ask ourselves as to whether we want this minority group to destroy our success and prosperity which we had built all this while," he said.

The Prime Minister and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali wished the Chinese community a happy and prosperous new year.

-- BERNAMA

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