

24 DEC 2002

Mahathir-Christmas

OUR GENUINE CARING ATTITUDE SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he is proud of Malaysians for truly showing concern on humanitarian issues regardless of race, religion and politics.

The Prime Minister said this was evident from the fact that there were non-Muslim volunteers, including Christians, from Malaysia who were willing to do their bit for Muslims in countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and Palestine.

"This is one trait beneficial to our country because we are really concerned about and give importance to humanitarian matters, not race, religion or politics. We should preserve this quality," he said in his Christmas message.

Dr Mahathir said the people have reason to be thankful and proud because the oppression of Muslims by non-Muslims in other countries was condemned not only by Muslims in Malaysia but also non-Muslims.

Nowadays racial and religious conflicts frequently happened in other countries but they did not influence Malaysians, who continued to live in peace and harmony, he said.

"We should always preserve such traits. Indeed, they have brought us many benefits," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the high level of tolerance shown by Malaysians had enabled them to live in peace and harmony although they were of different religions, cultures, languages and racial origins.

In extending his Christmas greetings and those of his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali to Malaysian Christians, Dr Mahathir urged the people to strengthen their ties by calling on their friends during such festive occasions.

"Let's maintain the atmosphere of peace, which can contribute to the development of our beloved country and well-being of all of us," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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