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Mahathir-Message

CHINESE CELEBRATE CNY JOYOUSLY PROOF OF SUCCESSFUL POLICIES - DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 31 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Chinese celebrated Chinese New Year in a calm and comfortable atmosphere along with the other races and believers of other faiths bears testimony that government policies are correct and successful, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

In many Asian countries and other regions, the Chinese cultural practices were restricted, the Prime Minister said.

"In Malaysia, not only the Chinese New year merry-making is free but has been turned into a national celebration with public holidays and joyous occasion by government official organisations," he said in his Chinese New Year message.

Like in previous years, the Chinese New Year would be celebrated in this country without any disturbances or obstructions although the world was in fear of a war.

"It has been thousands of years the Chinese New Year celebrations are celebrated by the Chinese worldwide. It will bring a significant meaning if it can be celebrated happily and peacefully," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the tolerance of the multi-racial people in Malaysia was a civilised culture that needs to be preserve and practised.

"The tolerance has made Malaysia to be looked up upon by the world, especially in this era of serious animosity among races and religions anywhere," he said.

Dr Mahathir said when the Chinese and other races usher in the Chinese New Year, Malaysians must appreciate and be grateful to live in a country like Malaysia.

"Once in a while, we have to imagine what will happen if there is no tolerance.

"As such, preserve this good culture, maintain the inter-racial tolerance as we can reap a lot of benefits from it," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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