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MALAYSIA HINDU SANGAM HOPES FOR LASTING PEACE AND HARMONY IN MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Hindu Sangam, in conjunction with Deepavali celebrations tomorrow, hopes that all Malaysians, regardless of race and religion, will maintain goodwill, peace and harmony in the country.

Its President, Datuk A. Vaithilingam, said Deepavali was a festival of lights which brought hope to all those who had experienced their share of hardship due to unsettled issues of turmoil in every part of the world.

"We in Malaysia have been more fortunate as a developing nation respected by all other nations," he said in a statement issued today.

Vaithilingam said Deepavali in Malaysia this year came at a time when the country's long-serving Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was retiring in a week's time.

"All Malaysians shall always remember his services to the nation. Hindus in Malaysia wish to express their appreciation for his contributions as the father of Modern Malaysia," he said.

The Malaysian Hindu Sangam also pledged to continue giving the same cooperation and support to Dr Mahathir's successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

-- BERNAMA

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