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Mahathir-Safe

M'SIA PROVES TO BE SAFE PLACE, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is proven to be a safe place with festivities celebrated without any untoward incidents, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Malaysia celebrated Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Christmas and New Year peacefully. I was looking for terrorists at KLCC during last night's New Year celebrations but I didn't see any.

"Hundreds of thousands of people of all races, nationals and religions gathered at public places to celebrate. It was a good chance for them (terrorists) to do harm but nothing bad happened," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this at a press conference after attending a New Year Open House hosted by the People's Progressive Party (PPP) at the Putra World Trade Centre. He was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

Dr Mahathir said he was happy that the people felt safe in Malaysia and was not in fear of terrorist acts.

He said he did not understand on what basis the nonsensical claims that Malaysia was not a safe country were made.

In fact, in developed countries, the people were more afraid of terrorist attacks following adverse external developments, he said.

To a question on his New Year resolution, Dr Mahathir said he wanted to ensure that Malaysia's peace and prosperity were maintained even after he leaves office in October.

He said he intends to nurture the spirit of unity and strengthen discipline among Barisan Nasional (BN) members.

As for his work in the office, Dr Mahathir said he had to do the usual things and nothing spectacular.

More than 500 people attended the New Year gathering, including party members, senior citizens and disabled children.

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