

14 MAY 2003

Mahathir-Wesak

PRESERVE RACIAL UNITY AND BOOST TIES, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, May 14 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has reminded Malaysians to preserve racial harmony and unity as this will save the country from attempts by parties out to instigate the people and control the country.

The prime minister said with the uncertainties facing the world today, where the rich and powerful have unfettered powers to oppress the weak and the poor, Malaysians were very fortunate to be able to keep their sovereignty and freedom.

"We can maintain this by continuing to foster unity among the people of various races and religions.

"We have a high degree of tolerance. We have respect for one another," he said in his Wesak Day message.

Dr Mahathir urged the people to use the occasion of Wesak Day, which will be celebrated by Buddhists tomorrow, to visit their friends to strengthen ties.

"On this auspicious day, I would like to call on all Malaysians to take the opportunity to strengthen our bonds of friendship," he said.

He said the people should also continue the practice of inviting their friends of other races to their Open House so that they could know each other better.

Dr Mahathir said he was thankful that Malaysians could again observe Wesak Day with joy and festivities.

The prime minister and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, extended their Wesak Day greetings to those celebrating the occasion.

-- BERNAMA

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