

Chua's Christmas And New Year Message
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by Dr Chua Soi Lek

The MCA wishes to convey a Merry Christmas to all Malaysians of the Christian faith and a Happy New Year to all.

To the non-Christians, it is also a day to rejoice with your fellow neighbours, friends and colleagues.

Interact and share with them the abundance of goodwill and fellowship and shower them with the blessings in the true Christmas spirit of caring, sharing and merriment.

Every festival in Malaysia is a festivity for all as the country is a hub for a variety of cultures, faiths and traditions, bringing with it a multitude of festivals, some not seen in any part of the world.

Malaysia's diversity is a strength to be reckoned with. It also entails a strong selling point for the country's tourism industry.

Christmas is the period to spend more time with your loved ones and families.

It is also the time to reflect and review the happenings in the past year and to look forward on what to expect for the coming year.

The months ahead will be full of challenges and we cannot run away from the economic uncertainties facing us.

Europe is going through a rough time. It will also have an impact on Malaysia.

As such we must be prepared for those challenges next year which may also see the possibility of the 13th general election being held.

Whether we like it or not, politics and economics are intertwined.

While other leaders bicker over inconsequential issues, Barisan Nasional under the leadership of Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak have put in place policies and programmes to face the economic challenges ahead.

The people's support provides the oxygen for the government to continue with its initiatives and programmes. We must not pull out the oxygen masks.

We have been fortunate all these while when faced with the many global challenges and each time we are able to rise to the occasion to contain the situation.

We can still do the same by standing together to help insulate the economy by ensuring political stability and not bicker among ourselves. Whatever our political sentiments, this is not the time to go on a political adventure or experiment.

We should give blessings to the inclusive policies under the 1Malaysia banner which embraces the needs of all Malaysians.

We must all give support to the initiatives and transformation plans laid out by the Prime Minister to help us brace for economic challenges.

For 2012, we certainly have to improve our global competitiveness and lay down a solid foundation of growth and make long term progress.

This is the route we have to take and all Malaysians must take ownership of their destiny collectively. We should not allow those with ulterior agenda to derail this journey of ours.

Let us all make use of each candle to light up more candles so that many more candles can be lit up to give light to more.

We can ensure the continuity of this glowing light for our nation if we continue to help each other to light up our lives for the common good of our country.

We have become more judgmental and emotional but let us not allow such attributes to overwhelm or cloud our perception and vision.

MCA wishes all Malaysians will begin the New Year on a good footing and blessed with greatness on whatever they pursue.

If you are traveling locally or abroad, please ensure that safety is your priority so that you and your family will reach the destination safely.

May there be less violence and hatred among us. Let us embrace more love and compassion towards our 1Malaysia goals.

Merry Christmas everyone and a Happy New Year.

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