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# Najib wishes for lasting peace

**CNY GREETINGS: PM**  
urges Malaysians  
to uphold unity

**KUALA LUMPUR**

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak hopes for lasting peace in the country, in his Chinese New Year greeting this year.

Najib posted the greetings on his Facebook page at 1.30pm yesterday.

"May the tear of the peace-loving goat bring our home continued harmony and strength in unity.

"And may the Year of the Goat also bring each of you happiness, prosperity and good health. Happy New Year, Gong Xi Fa Cai," he said.

He also posted a video message on Facebook and Twitter — @najibrazak — on his festive greetings for everybody who celebrates Chinese New Year.

In Kota Kinabalu, the Sabah government promised to continue supporting the Chinese community in the development of education, temples and cultural activities.

In his Chinese New Year message, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman reassured the community that the government would continue to disburse financial aid

to Chinese schools and temples.

"This is our promise to you. We also support Chinese non-governmental organisations that work towards advancing education and welfare activities.

"We recognise that education is important to the Chinese community and we will continue to assist where possible."

In conjunction with the Year of the Goat, Musa reminded Sabah people to uphold harmony and to have mutual respect for all members of society.

"I wish to extend Chinese New Year greetings to the Chinese community in the state, as well as the country. Malaysia can stand proud as a nation that is made up of people from diverse backgrounds.

"Visiting one another during festivities is a way of life for Malaysians, and I am happy to note that we continue to uphold this tradition.

"While we continue to practise our cultures and traditions, we respect and understand one another. This is the core of Malaysia and I am proud that Sabah is truly a model for unity."

Musa also reminded Sabahans to remain cautious when it came to sensitive issues and said they should not allow themselves to be drawn into actions that might lead to unnecessary tension.

He noted Sabah would leave no room for racial bigotry and religious discord, adding that the peo-

ple must safeguard harmony, especially during festive seasons.

"I view seriously attempts by certain quarters to demand for Sabah to leave Malaysia. Such acts are irresponsible and are dividing us, not only within the state, but also with citizens from other parts of Malaysia."

On Sabah's economic growth, Musa said the state government was aware of issues raised by the business and trade communities in the state.

"We study all requests and suggestions and where possible, they are implemented as part of our efforts to find workable solutions and

to facilitate economic growth."

Meanwhile, Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye urged people of other races and religious faiths to take the opportunity during the Chinese New Year celebration to strengthen the bonds of friendship, as well as interracial and interreligious harmony in the spirit of Malaysia.

In a statement, Lee, who is National Unity Consultative Council deputy chairman, said as the Chinese community was joined by those of other races and religions, they helped give meaning to the multiracial and multireligious character of the nation, which formed the basis of nation-build-

ing in a multiracial country.

"Malaysia is unique in that the festive occasion of one ethnic group is also celebrated by other ethnic groups, making our festive occasions truly multiracial in character.

"Building understanding and respect among the diverse ethnic groups based on the provisions in the Federal Constitution and Rukun Negara is the key to peace and harmony in a multiracial and multireligious country like Malaysia."

Lee said festivities were auspicious occasions for all races to cultivate harmony, goodwill, peace and unity.

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