

Dr M hopes vaccine will mark a return to normal life

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PETALING JAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (pic) is putting high hopes on the Covid-19 vaccine as a turning point to return to normal life.

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In his Christmas Day message, the former prime minister said the celebration this year was not as complete as the years before due



to Covid-19 restrictions, which could not be avoided.

"It is already almost a year that we are facing the pandemic. High hopes are placed on the vaccine so that it may be able to restore life as we would normally go through," he said yesterday.

The government has so far secured a deal with Pfizer to buy 12.8 million doses of its Covid-19 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. It also recently signed an agreement with AstraZeneca for the procurement of 6.4 million doses of its vaccine.

Dr Mahathir urged all Malaysians to remain strong to endure the stress and sadness of the current situation while waiting for their hope to be realised.

"We must be confident that there will be light to shine our lives behind each darkness," he said, expressing his hope that the Christian community would be able to experience Christmas with joy and happiness with their family and loved ones.

"May our humanity stand out and bring the light of joy during this celebration.

"Hasmah (Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali) and I would like to take the opportunity to wish Merry Christmas to the Christian community," he said.

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said just as Christmas is a season of joy, peace and love, Malaysians must never give up on their quest to allow everyone to enjoy equal opportunity and for their children to realise their fullest potential.

"We must give hope to Malaysians, especially women and minorities, that they will be recognised for their accomplishment here and not only celebrated as Malaysians when they succeed in foreign countries," he said in his Christmas message.