

PM: OUR RICH CULTURE SIMILAR TO YEE SANG

He believes Lunar New Year will bring new hope and achievements

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THE huge contribution of the Chinese community to economic development, particularly in tourism, arts and culture, has made Malaysia an attractive tourism destination, said Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Speaking at the first virtual Chinese New Year open house celebration yesterday, he called on Malaysians to continue preserving the rich cultural traditions that had become the pride of the nation and recognised around the world.

Muhyiddin compared the rich cultural identities of Malaysia to the lively and colourful ingredients of *yee sang*, with the multicultural society known for celebrating different religious and cultural festivals every year.

“This is the pride of our coun-

try, where we can celebrate every festival harmoniously and with a great spirit of unity.”

He said this at the new norm open house celebration, streamed live on TV1 at 9pm last night and on the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry’s Facebook page.

He said the Chinese New Year was regarded incomplete without the tradition of giving *ang pow* to children and relatives.

“With the risk of Covid-19 infection in the community, I believe it is appropriate to adapt the practices and traditions (during the celebration) to embrace a more innovative form through digital technology such as e-ang pow application.

“Although physical meetings are limited at this time, the technology available today should be used to strengthen our relationship with one another.”

Muhyiddin reminded Malaysians to continue adhering to the standard operating procedures to curb the transmission of the Covid-19 virus.

On this note, he said, 2020 had been a difficult year as the country faced unprecedented challenges due to Covid-19, which also taught the nation many things.

“The government empathises

with the people and will continue to listen to those affected by the pandemic.

“Therefore, the government has introduced initiatives, including the latest economic stimulus package, Perlindungan Ekonomi dan Rakyat Malaysia (Permai), to safeguard the welfare of the people and support business continuity.”

He said the government would continue efforts to balance between people’s survival and the economy.

“As the saying goes, ‘we cannot change the direction of the wind, but we can adjust our sails to always reach our destination’.

“We are our own sails, so let us work together to ride this storm. Chinese New Year is about togetherness, peace, prosperity and happiness.

“I pray that this concept transcends age, race, religion and culture, and I believe that the Lunar New Year will bring New Hope and New Achievements.”

Present were Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong.

The audience was treated to performances, among others, by artistes Nicole Lai and Masya Masyitah.