

**Be Proud Of Racial Tolerance In Country - Muhyiddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 6 (Bernama) -- Malaysians should be proud of the prevailing racial tolerance in the country which has been the foundation for national unity and harmony, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the peace and harmony against a multiracial and multireligious backdrop was a very special thing not enjoyed by other countries.

Muhyiddin said without racial tolerance, Malaysia would not be able to stand proud like today.

"We must all ensure that what we are enjoying now will continue to be enjoyed in future. Hence, it is the responsibility of all Malaysians to continue showing mutual respect on a platform of tolerance," he said in his message in conjunction with the Thaipusam celebration Tuesday.

"Never view racial tolerance as trivial as weak unity could develop into animosity, thus hampering efforts to strengthen the racial unity forged since the country achieved its independence.

"In this regard, it is my hope that any positive values that contributes to racial harmony and prosperity in this country will continue to be the priority of every citizen.

"Appreciate and implement whatever steps that can strengthen unity among the various communities in this country," he said.

Muhyiddin said another uniqueness of Malaysian society could be seen whenever the Hindus celebrated Thaipusam - a religious festival which could take place due to the racial tolerance that prevailed since a long time ago.

"We are all aware that Thaipusam which is for cleansing of the soul from all sins, has also become a tourist attraction.

"How unique it is when a religious celebration of our Hindu community is able to draw foreigners to come to this country to see for themselves this grand celebration," he said.

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