

**Majority Of Malaysians Are Rational, Stand In Solidarity - Muhyiddin
Bernama
Dec 31, 2014**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 31 (Bernama) -- The majority of people in the country are rational and will not fall for the games played by those who have intention to create disharmony among the people when the country is in crisis, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said.

He said he was proud to see Malaysians stood in solidarity in facing the crisis even though certain quarters were trying hard to undermine the government's efforts and to ignite the fire of hatred.

"The people have to stay united with the government to implement all policies and development programmes so that Malaysia will become a respectable country and exemplary model to others," he said in his New Year's Message.

Muhyiddin said Malaysians must also prove that in any given situation, they would be able to stand in solidarity and set aside their differences because Malaysia is and would always be their homeland.

"We are proud of each success story created by a Malaysian and come what may, we will face it together in the name of multiracial solidarity," he said.

Muhyiddin said Malaysia was on the right track towards becoming a fully- developed nation in 2020 as the country's economy had recorded stable growth with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) recorded at 6.3 per cent in the second quarter of 2014.

"Insya-Allah (God willing), I'm confident that in 2015, we will record a stronger economic growth of between 5.5 per cent and 6 per cent as the public deficit dropped from 6.7 per cent in 2009 to 3.9 per cent in 2013 and is expected to continue dropping to 3.5 per cent in 2014.

"Malaysia's economic growth had also received international recognition in 2014.

In the World Bank's Doing Business 2015 Report, Malaysia had also improved its position to the 18th place among 189 countries," he said.

Relating the country's achievement in the Global Competitiveness Report 2014, Muhyiddin said Malaysia had climbed to the 20th place among 148 countries from the 24th place in 2013, hence putting it ahead of the economic performance of developed nations like Australia, France and South Korea.

The deputy prime minister said it also proved that the government was really committed and responsible in creating a truly conducive environment for economic development, especially in leading other factors that would boost productivity and higher value-added

activities each year.

Muhyiddin said Malaysia only had five more years to achieve the status of a fully-developed high income nation by 2020, and hence, the 2015 Budget tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak should become the guideline in putting the people's interests and needs first in the future.

"In May next year, the 11th Malaysia Plan will begin and will become the final booster for Malaysia in the next five years towards becoming a fully developed nation.

"Personally, I hope that the year 2015 will see livelier growth of our economy and fairer distribution of the country's wealth in a bid to close the imbalance gap among races and those in urban and rural areas," he said.

He also called on all Malaysians to pray for Malaysia to always be blessed, and for them to lend a helping hand to victims in the flood-hit states.

"It is hoped that the situation will return to normal soon and that Allah will increase sustenance and wellbeing of all Malaysians after going through this difficult year(2014)," he added.

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