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MESSAGE BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
ON THE OCCASION OF CHINESE NEW YEAR
ON 20TH JANUARY, 1966.

Malaysians of Chinese origin have been making - since early this year - elaborate plans to usher in the New Year of the Horse with a big bang and plenty of gaiety and rejoicing.

Their Malay brothers who have been observing Ramadhan have also been making plans to celebrate Hari Raya Puasa with equal and rejoicing by visiting relatives and friends and to wish one another a happy and prosperous future.

Again this year, the two biggest festivals in Malaysia, fall closely near each other and this is regarded by many people as a good omen: This augurs well for the future of Malaysia and its two biggest communities. The future of Malaysia to a large extent depends on racial harmony and solidarity especially on continued Sino-Malay cooperation and harmony. It is gratifying to note that the tie of friendship, goodwill and cooperation among the various races is being strengthened everyday of the year.

I urge my Chinese brothers and the Malays to visit one another, to wish one another a happy and prosperous future and to exchange presents and to renew faith and friendship in each other during the Chinese New Year and Hari Raya holidays.

The Alliance Government has been the pillar of racial harmony and national solidarity. The Alliance Government has been ruling this country for the last ten years and during this decade it has not only maintained but greatly strengthened harmony and goodwill among the various races in Malaysia. The Alliance Government has also brought Malaysia greater prosperity for her people. I must go on repeating this - not to convince those unconvinced - but to renew our aim to build a united, strong and satisfying society for our multi-racial and multi-cultural population. On this New Year Day I appeal to all my Chinese friends and other Malaysians to resolve to work harder towards the achievements of a united

and happier Malaysia. I firmly believe that together with hard work and in unity we can make Malaysia happier and a prosperous country in which we and our children will be proud to live, to give their undivided loyalty and lives in its defence.

Throughout last year I was very proud of the way in which our people of all races in all parts of the country have manifested their loyalty and have stood solidly behind the Government in facing the threat to the country both from aggression from without and subversion from within. Our youths have responded magnificently to the National Service call-up and others have joined voluntary services in the defence of our country. I would like to see more Chinese youths join the Armed Forces of Malaysia and other defence agencies. I would like very much on this happy day to express the nation's gratitude to the members of the Armed Forces and the Police Force for their devotion and loyalty to the Government. It is because of them and their devotion to duty that we are now living in comparative peace, prosperity and stability. We go to bed everynight happy knowing that we are safe and secured. I would like on behalf of the people of Malaysia to thank every member of the Armed Forces and the Police for his loyalty and devotion to the Government and to the people of this country and to wish everyone of them, their families and relatives a happy and prosperous New Year and future. May God Bless Us All.

Kong Hee Fatt Choy.