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Leaders urge Malaysians to strive for a better year

PETALING JAYA: In heralding a new year, the nation's leaders call on all Malaysians to strive for a better Malaysia come 2020.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said the government will continue to fight against graft and instil integrity and honesty in the country.

"For 2020, let us focus on the positives. In 2020, we promise to continue working towards a better Malaysia," said Dr Wan Azizah.

Home Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said it is time to stop playing up racial issues.

"Lately, there have been too many racial issues which have been spun by certain quarters to create tension in society.

"In the spirit of ushering in a new year, I beg all Malaysians, regardless of race or religion, to preserve harmony and peace.

"Avoid speeches and actions that would create suspicions among us.

"Stern action according to the Constitution and laws of the country will be taken to ensure the country remains peaceful and safe," he said.

Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Azmin Ali said Malaysians must be brave to face the global economic challenges.

"We need a new imagination and the courage to think big to face the challenges as we shift away from the United States and Europe.

"The Kuala Lumpur Summit 2019 has opened up opportunities for collective economy and technological cooperation in a community of 1.7 billion and we should look at all opportunities to get through the storm of the China-US trade war.

"The Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 will be the anchor to the efforts of developing a dynamic and sustainable economy.

"This will not only strengthen the growth and peace but close the gaps between income groups, ethnicities and areas.

"Let us enter the new year and new decade with the spirit of one nation," said Azmin.

Defence Minister Mohamad Sabu said that despite the differences, all Malaysians must strive to defend the country's harmony.

"We as Malaysians of different races and religions have long lived with much respect (among each other).



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Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail



"Harmony and order that has been built since independence must be defended and not be destroyed by narrow-minded quarters who use race and religious issues for their own political interests," he said.

Human Resources Minister M. Kulasegaran hopes for Malaysians to be less dependent on foreign labour.

"Employers also need to pay better wages to attract more Malaysians to work for them.

"Every working Malaysian must be skilled or upskilled or reskilled.

"This will translate into higher productivity and better wages for our workers," he added.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador called on members of the force to better themselves for the sake of the people and the country.

He also hoped the new year would bring renewed vigour among police personnel of all levels to serve the people better.

"Experiences throughout this year have taught the police force about striving to be better and overcoming challenges.

"To members of the police force, let us start the new year by vowing to conduct our duties sincerely and do away with any negative elements," he said in his New Year's address.