

Give the Govt its due says

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on all communities to appreciate the Government's efforts in tackling the problems of the various racial groups.

The Prime Minister said some of the Government's actions in overcoming the various problems might cause discomfort to certain communities.

In trying to solve the problems of Malaysia's multi-racial society, he said, "the Government may be stepping on the toes of a particular community."

Speaking at a tea party given in his honour by the Sikh Youth Association here, he added that the Government would strive to help the poor, irrespective of race.

Praise

He said: "We will try and help the poor. The rich can look after themselves."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir praised the Sikh community for their dedication and hard work, adding that despite being a minority, they had made an impact on society.

He said he hoped that the other communities would also emulate the Sikhs in striving for success.

Malaysians must be willing to sacrifice in the initial years in order to achieve future success, he added.

The Prime Minister said there was no simple answer to the country's problems.

He added: "It is necessary for the various communities to understand the basis for all our problems and find ways and means to overcome them."

"If we become inward-looking in solving our problems, there may be faults in our judgment."

Earlier, the president of the association, Mr Harcharan Singh, pledged the community's full support towards Government efforts in bringing development to the country.

He said the Sikh community was proud of the sacrifices of Sikhs in the police and armed forces in defending the country.

He added: "The Sikhs of Malaysia are proud to be Malaysians. This is our country."

"Most of us have been born here and it is here that we hope to breathe our last."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah.

They were earlier entertained to cultural dances by a Sikh cultural group.