

Dr M:
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Get to know the folk next door

ALOR STAR, Sun. —
Datuk Seri Dr Ma-
hathir Mohamad said
last night that the
spirit of neighbourli-

ness should be further
cultivated among the
people, particularly
among those in the ur-
ban areas.

Such a tradition should
be maintained for the in-
terest of the security and
prosperity of the people
and nation, the Prime
Minister said at a break-
ing-fast gathering at
Masjid Kepalabatu, Mu-
kim Pelubang, 20km

from here.
The spirit of neigh-
bourliness was gradually
eroding, especially
among certain urban
folk, he said.

There was already a si-
tuation in which certain
people did not recognise
their neighbours.

He believed that break-
ing-fast gatherings and
visits to each other's
homes during the Hari
Raya would instil a spirit
of neighbourliness and
goodwill, particularly
among Muslims.

The Prime Minister
said that the continuing
crisis in West Asia was
due to a lack of the spirit
of neighbourliness
among the countries
there.

The war continues be-
tween two Islamic coun-
tries in that region be-
cause both sides did not
practise tolerance, he
said.

Without mentioning
Iran or Iraq, he said that
they also did not practise
a give-and-take attitude
and refused to accept the
call for peace.

Malaysia and the other
Islamic countries had
tried to bring peace be-
tween the two countries
but, in return, one of the
parties to the conflict
asked the Islamic world
to punish its opponent be-
cause it claimed that
they were the ones who
caused the war, Datuk
Seri Dr. Mahathir said.

He said Malaysia's
peace efforts had still not

borne fruit because both
parties looked de-
termined to continue the
war.

The continuing war
would result only in the
loss of more lives of Mus-
lims and "this is sadden-
ing".

Hoping that the war
would not spread to other
areas, the Prime Minis-
ter advised the people in
Malaysia to learn from
the mistakes of other
countries.

This would bring about
the realisation of the
need to enhance the spirit
of goodwill and unity.

On the setting up of the
Universiti Utara Malay-
sia (UUM) campus near
hrc, he expressed the
hope that local people
would grab the opportu-
nities which came with it
to upgrade their econo-
mic standards.

He said the project
would result in greater
business and employ-

ment opportunities.

Earlier, State Execu-
tive Councillor Datuk Pa-
duka Osman Aroff said
the breaking-fast gather-
ing was aimed at foster-
ing a closer relationship
between the people and
the elected representa-
tives.

Among the 300 people
who attended the gather-
ing were Datin Seri Dr
Siti Hasmah and local
leaders. — Bernama