

PM: Rakyat voted for racial ^(e) harmony

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said today the outcome of the general election showed that Malaysians had given their support to those who favoured racial harmony.

He said this clearly meant that the *rakyat* wanted peace to prevail in the nation.

He was speaking to an assembly of more than 450 Girl Guides at the Sekolah Menengah Perempuan Puteri Titiwangsa.

Dr Mahathir said the peace that prevailed during the general election showed that Malaysians were protective of inter-racial harmony.

He said he was aware

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that there were some people who were spreading rumours that the election would result in violence.

"But the truth is, there was no violence or riot. The situation is peaceful because the people have always valued peace."

Dr Mahathir also emphasised the importance of instilling racial tolerance and harmony early in life, for a better future.

He gave a few encouraging words to the Guides, saying that he was confident they would be able to foster friendship with one another during their camp.

"There is no better time to do so than during your camp. I'm sure that Girl Guides with differing backgrounds will be able to cultivate friendship with each other. We have to be tolerant of one another even though we are different in race, culture and religion. Being different does not mean that we all cannot be friends."

He also said the Government had allocated an area in Bukit Klara to be turned into a permanent camp site for the Guides to enable them to carry out their activities.

The hot weather did not stop the Guides from Petaling Jaya and Kuala Lumpur from putting their best foot forward for their very important guest.

Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, were entertained to a colourful programme of dances. A sketch on dadah was also presented.

Dr Mahathir later released balloons carrying the Guides' scroll and five white pigeons.