

People want peace, says Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the country will continue to enjoy peace and harmony and put to rest fears that there will be chaos or racial disturbance.

The Prime Minister said some people had circulated rumours that there would be trouble after the general election.

Dr Mahathir said it was normal to expect some tension among the various communities and political parties during any general election.

"But this (chaos) did not happen because the people of this multiracial country want peace," he said when he opened a girl guides camp here.

"They prefer to live in racial harmony because peace will benefit the country."

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional received overwhelming support from the people during the general election because they wanted continued peace and economic, social and political stability.

The camp was organised by the Selangor and Federal Territory Girl Guides' Association in conjunction with the International Year for Peace.

Dr Mahathir also described as apt the theme for the celebration — *Peace through unity and friendship*.

Peace, he said, could be achieved if there was harmony among the people.

In this respect, he said it would benefit everyone if the children were taught to live in peace

through harmony and friendship.

"I am confident that if we can promote friendship among our children, our country will always be in peace," he added.

He also advised the people to be tolerant and accept the fact that people differ in culture and religion.

"These differences do not mean that we cannot be friends," he added.

Later, Dr Mahathir released five white pigeons, the symbol of peace.