

# LET'S WORK FOR A GREATER MALAYSIA: PM

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KUCHING, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysian politicians should learn to use the country's assets to lay the foundation for a greater Malaysia.

"Malaysia has tremendous potential. It does not have gold or diamonds. Its greatest asset is a people who wants to live peacefully and share in its development and prosperity.

"But all this will come to nought if we do not know how to use this potential," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who was speaking at the 25th anniversary dinner of the

Sarawak National Party (SNAP), said the country can retain its asset (the people) if "we learn to share, particularly, share power."

"So far, we have done remarkably well. But more can be done.

"The day will come when Malaysia will stand among the developed nations. We may not live to see this day but what's important is to lay the foundation for a greater Malaysia," he said.

Dr Mahathir also advised political parties to learn to share power to ensure peace and stability in the country.

As an example, he said Sarawak was one place where political parties which fought each other could still join the Govern-

ment and rule justly for the people's well-being.

He said the Sarawak Barisan comprised several parties, two of which — SNAP and the Sarawak United People's Party — were once in the opposition.

"When we are apart, we fight. But when we come together, common sense prevails and we can work together for the good of the people.

"That is why Malaysia has survived and is prosperous when many countries which gained Independence much earlier are not doing as well," he said.

"We don't want to go around beating our chests and telling the world what we have achieved.

"But we have to have

pride. When we have pride, we will work harder and will share in the eventual prosperity and development of the country," he said.

Earlier, SNAP president Datuk James Wong pledged the party's full support for the Barisan.

He said SNAP would continue to work in the Barisan as long as it was required.

The party also honoured its founder Datuk Stephen Kalong Ningkan and presented him with a memento for his services to the party.

Among the guests were Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Taib Mahmud, Gerakan president Datuk Dr Lim Keng Yaik and leaders of the Sarawak Barisan component parties.