

Co-operation among communities vital Sacrificing for nation's good

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KUCHING, Fri. — The Prime Minister today said that for multi-racial Malaysia to achieve its objectives in nation building there must be co-operation among the communities.

Without the co-operation of the parties representing the communities, little can be achieved in terms of making Malaysia a truly sovereign nation.

"However, it is important to remember that the essence of co-operation is the realisation that everyone will have to make some form of sacrifices," he said.

"There must be a spirit of give and take between us who are co-operating. We sacrifice something in order to get more for the nation and in the process everyone will benefit."

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad was speaking at the opening of the new Parti Pesaka Bumiputra Bersatu (PBB) headquarters building.

Among those present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Chief Minister and PBB president Datuk Patinggi Abdul

By ZAINON AHMAD

Taib Mahmud and his wife Datin Laila Taib and leaders of the SUPP, Snap and PBDS. All the four parties are members of the Sarawak Barisan Nasional.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived yesterday on a two-day visit to Sarawak, said the ability and willingness to co-operate should now be accepted as part of the Malaysian value system.

"The success of a nation is also based

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on the good set of values it possesses," he said.

He said politicians, more than anybody else, must be guided by these values. Their actions must be motivated by their desire to serve the people and the desire to build Malaysia into a greater nation.

Only then can the popular notion that politics is dirty be changed. That notion will continue to have credence for as long as politicians are motivated by their own self-interest and ambitions.

Referring to the PBB, he said that a party headquarters was important but more important was the spirit to strive on in the interest of the people.

"But it is all right for as long as we do not allow the comfort to lull us into forgetting our role in the political struggle," he said.

Last night, at a dinner organised by Snap to mark its silver jubilee, the Prime Minister said the establishment of the Sarawak Barisan Nasional was a manifestation of a shared conviction by the parties in the State that only through co-operation could the State achieve political stability for development to take place.

The opposing parties had come together after a realisation that no one party could establish a stable Government without the consent of the communities not represented by the parties.

Dr Mahathir said: "We must always remember that the country's greatest asset is the people. We must not disappoint them."

"As a Government representing them, we must ensure that there is peace in the land and we must implement development projects for their benefit."