

PM: Only BN can ensure peace

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LABUAN, Fri. — Malaysians have managed to live peacefully despite the many different communities found in the country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He attributed this peaceful co-existence to the rule of the Barisan Nasional.

"All races have been given opportunities to improve their standard of living by the Barisan Government and it is only the Barisan that can ensure development and stability," he said when launching a project to upgrade the road network here.

The Prime Minister said the Government had also strived to enhance the co-operation and understanding among the races, adding that this co-operation can

only be achieved by the Barisan Government.

He stressed that no one community controls the Barisan, and its decisions are reached through consensus.

He said representatives of all communities are given the opportunity to air their views in the Barisan.

Dr Mahathir, who ends his two-day visit here today, said many cosmopolitan countries had failed to achieve the level of communal co-operation found in our country.

"This can be seen in their constant struggle, sometimes even ending in civil war," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the only time Malaysia experienced such an incident was in 1969 and it was con-

tained in Kuala Lumpur and brought under control quickly.

He added that after the incident several opposition parties like Gerakan, the Peoples' Progressive Party and PAS joined the Government.

"Since 1969, the country has developed rapidly. To ensure continued development, Malaysians must enhance their co-operation," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government will continue to maintain Labuan as a duty-free port. "This will ensure that the people of Labuan get their goods cheaper than anywhere else in Peninsular Malaysia," he said.

Efforts will also be made to turn Labuan into a tourist and education centre.