

The people must decide: PM

# Unity through a Malaysian race

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called for the creation of a united Malaysian race and said the people must remain fully committed to this objective.**

"Twenty-nine years of independence have already passed and yet we still have problems in trying to achieve true unity, but this must not deter us from trying even harder," he told 1,500 participants of a Malaysian Race Development Convention this morning.

No doubt the Malaysian race would be an artificial one, created consciously and deliberately,

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By SHARIFAH ROZITA

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but this was necessary to ensure peace and prosperity for the nation.

The Prime Minister said the burden lay squarely with the people to ensure the success of efforts to unite society and the country.

## Confusing theories

"There can only be good to be derived from the creation of this united Malaysian race from the different communities in the country.

"But ultimately, it is the people who decide whether all such efforts are successful, whether

the country is united and developed and prosperous."

He said Malaysia could not afford a situation where one community looked after only its interests as this would affect the needs and wants of the others.

"What one community wants may not be the same as that demanded by another," he said, underlining the adage that one man's meat is another's poison.

He called for pride in the nation, which belonged to everyone from all communities and walks of life, but stressed that the Government could not please everybody.

Dr Mahathir said it might sound perverse, but it seemed to him that a situation where all the different communities remained unsatisfied could well be the best way to maintain harmony.

This was because if a single community was satisfied, it would mean that the other communities had somehow been deprived.

The Government could not satisfy everyone and this was a reality Malaysians would have to live with, just as they had accepted the fact that there must be co-operation on all fronts — political, economic and social.

Dr Mahathir was confident, however, that Malaysians would manage — as they had over

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**□ NO ONE IN UMNO WANTS  
Dr MAHATHIR TO STEP DOWN: P5**

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the years despite the odds — to live in harmony with neighbours from different races and religions.

He called upon the country's intellectuals and parents to lead the way in achieving unity — the former by coming up with recommendations and theories through their academic pursuits and the latter by influencing their children to mix with other races rather than isolating themselves.

The Prime Minister expressed disappointment at the tendency among some young people, especially those in colleges and universities, to mix only with their own kind.

He also criticised some intellectuals for contributing to the "murkiness" in the issue of unity by coming up with confusing theories.

The Government, he added, had to mount campaigns and launch projects, such as Rukun Tetangga, to close the gap between the communities and help Malaysians, particularly those in urban areas, to know one another.

The convention was attended by non-political groups and associations, including those from Sabah and Sarawak.

The participants will return to their States and hold separate discussions and meetings over the next few months, based on the Prime Minister's speech today.