

Be good neighbours, Dr M tells people

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Prime Minister today called on the *rakyat* to foster a spirit of neighbourliness "so that we may forge a strong and united nation together."

"This spirit of neighbourliness can contribute towards healthier relationships between people of different backgrounds, giving rise to a class of citizens who would truly love their country." Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Launching the Setia-kasih Residents Association (Perkasih) at Bukit Damansara here this morning, he added that the result of good neighbourliness would be freer integration and increased harmony among the different races.

The Prime Minister bemoaned the lack of concern among residents in various housing estates "where most of them are very often strangers to their neighbours."

"They (the residents) are too preoccupied with

their work and in activities with their work-mates to be concerned with the welfare of their neighbours.

"This sad situation has given rise to occasions where misfortune has befallen their neighbours ... and yet nobody cares."

He felt that it was, therefore, important for residents in other housing estates to emulate the example set by the Setia-kasih residents in forming their own association.

Such associations would play the role of

helping residents to get better acquainted with each other and build stronger friendships.

"This results in better lives for everyone as a consequence of increased harmony and greater pride in their own surroundings.

"Among other things too, there will be a spirit of friendship to help their neighbours in times of difficulty," he added.

The Prime Minister, sporting a hat and dressed casually in

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slacks and a T-shirt, was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, and their two adopted children, Mazhar and Maizura.

Dr Mahathir and his wife later participated in a "threading the needle" race, where they beat eight other couples to cross the finishing line first.

Later, the Prime Minister's team beat a team headed by the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Sallehuddin Mohamad, in a "tug-of-war" contest.



Dr Mahathir... caught in a candid pose as he puts himself on the other end of a camera.