

D999

U E667 AAE
MAHATHIR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 13 (BERNAMA) -- THE SIMILARITIES IN VARIOUS ASPECTS AMONG THE COMMUNITIES CAN FORM THE BASIS FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS AMONG THE PEOPLE, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THAT WHILE THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES AMONG THE COMMUNITIES, +THERE IS NO 100 PERCENT DIFFERENCE AMONG US. THERE ARE MANY SIMILARITIES.+

IN EFFORTS TO FORGE GOOD RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE COMMUNITIES, ATTENTION SHOULD BE FOCUSSED ON THE SIMILARITIES, PUTTING ASIDE THE DIFFERENCES, HE SAID.

+THE BEST AREA TO CEMENT GOOD RELATIONSHIP IS AMONG CHILDREN,+ HE SAID WHEN UNVEILING A BILLBOARD PROMOTING GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS, DONATED BY PUBLIC BANK BERHAD AT BANDAR TUN RAZAK HERE.

CHILDREN WERE BORN WITHOUT ANY PREJUDICE AND FOR THEM THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS RACE OR COMMUNITY, HE SAID, ADDING THAT CHILDREN WERE HAPPY TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH THOSE OF OTHER COMMUNITIES. -- MORE
1528MST 13 09 87

D007

U E671 AAE
MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF FRIENDSHIP AMONG THE CHILDREN WAS STRENGTHENED AND TALK OF DIFFERENCES WAS MINIMISED, IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR THEM TO BE MORE FRIENDLY AND GOOD TO THOSE OF THEIR OWN AGE.

+WITH THAT, THEY WILL UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS, LIFESTYLES AND CULTURES. THEY WILL KNOW WHAT TO TOUCH ON AND WHAT NOT TO.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THEY WOULD THEN GROW UP WITH FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES OF THE PEOPLE AND WOULD FIND IT EASY TO ADAPT TO THE MULTI-RACIALISM OF THE NATION.

THIS SITUATION WOULD NOT COME ABOUT ON ITS OWN, HE SAID, AND ADDED THAT THE OLDER PEOPLE HAD A ROLE IN INSTILLING AND NOURISHING THE SPIRIT OF GOOD RELATIONSHIP AMONG CHILDREN.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT GAVE SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THE PROMOTING OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS AND ENCOURAGED THE SPIRIT OF GOTONG ROYONG AND MUTUAL HELP AMONG THE PEOPLE. -- MORE
1553MST 13 09 87

D008

U E672 AAE
MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID EFFORTS TOWARDS THIS DIRECTION DID NOT HAVE THE DESIRED RESULTS BEAUSE OF THE LUKEWARM RESPONSE FROM THE PEOPLE AND THEIR FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS.

HE HOPED THE BILLBOARD WOULD SERVE AS A REMINDER TO ALL QUARTERS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING GOOD TO ONE'S NEIGHBOURS, IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE OR RELIGION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR COMMENDED PUBLIC BANK FOR COMPLEMENTING GOVERNMENT EFFORTS IN PROMOTING GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS.

EIGHTEEN MORE SUCH BOARDS WILL BE PUT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THE PROJECT IS CARRIED OUT IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL UNITY DEPARTMENT.

MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT KASITAH GADDAM AND SENIOR BANKS OFFICIALS WERE AMONG THOSE PRESENT. -- BERNAMA
1555MST 13 09 87