

Mahathir: Problems can be resolved

MALACCA, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that all problems facing the country can be resolved in a mature manner, through discussions.

The Prime Minister said that all parties concerned should accept that each had its rights and none could get 100 per cent of what it wanted.

For more than 30 years since Merdeka, the Government had faced numerous problems, including issues related to language, education and economic issues, he said.

"Despite all this, we are still united and have a strong and stable government. This shows that we can resolve whatever problem we face," he said when launching the *Semarak* movement at the reclaimed land opposite Padang Pahlawan here.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysians were by nature moderate and tolerant, and this was something to be thankful for.

The Government had been able to bring stability and progress because Malaysians had these traits, he added.

He said Malaysians did not make strong demands, and even if they did not get what they wanted, they would not regard it as something very serious.

Dr Mahathir said this was in contrast to other countries where people resort to demonstrations and strikes when they did not get what they wanted.

"In some countries, the people are forced to resort to demonstrations and throwing stones to resolve their problems because there are no avenues for them to voice their grievances," he said.

In Malaysia, there was no need for demonstrations because there were enough avenues for problems to be solved through discussions, Dr Mahathir said.

He urged the people to learn from the country's history, including the May 13 troubles of 1969.

He said the incident happened because of negligence and carelessness.

"We do not want the incident to be repeated because it was a dark spot in our history. But we should not forget May 13 because it taught all of us a valuable lesson."