

Tycoon makes it despite rules and regulations

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad with Tan Sri Lim Goh Tong, founder of the Genting group of companies, unveiling a portrait of Tan Sri Lim.

The occasion was Genting's 25th anniversary dinner at the Genting Highlands hotel on Saturday night.

Dr Mahathir paid a glowing tribute to Tan Sri Lim, describing his success as quite unprecedented even in Malaysia which has produced many success stories in the business world.

Tan Sri Lim's success was particularly significant because he was born elsewhere but had made a name for himself not only in Malaysia but throughout the world.

Tan Sri Lim, 72, came to this country from China in 1937.

Twenty-five years ago, he carved out what was virgin jungle on a highland into the Genting Highland resort which has since become a world-renowned tourist spot.

The company has since become a highly-diversified group and is one of Malaysia's five largest corporations today, with 13,000 workers including in other parts of the world where it also runs tourist resorts.

Dr Mahathir said: "Tan Sri Lim's story is something which can happen in Malaysia where a man born elsewhere has built up a business empire beyond his dreams."

He said Tan Sri Lim had achieved success despite having to comply with all the

rules and regulations imposed by the government.

"He has been willing to comply with our rules and regulations including the restructuring needs of the country but has become very, very successful.

"I am saying this because I would like to point out that in Malaysia it is possible to become very successful and at the same time comply with the rules and regulations.

"Of course it is impossible for any government in the world to make everyone happy even in countries where there is only one race.

"But the various races in Malaysia are living in relative harmony.

"In fact we are more harmonious and stable than in most other countries in the

world," he added.

The Prime Minister said Tan Sri Lim had become successful although he had little formal education, did not speak English and spoke only a little Bahasa Malaysia.

"I would like to congratulate Tan Sri Lim for his success and for his contributions to the development of the tourist industry in the country through the Genting Highland resort," he added.

The Genting group of companies has assets totalling \$2.1 billion with a reported profit before tax of \$290.4 million for 1989.

The group is involved in multi-faceted business activities with interests in resorts, plantations, property development, investments and management services. It also operates Malaysia's only casino.