

Orang Asli will continue to get help, says Dr M

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GUA MUSANG, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night and this morning met minority groups in the Gua Musang parliamentary constituency.

Last night he attended a dinner and cultural show organised by the local MCA branch.

This morning before flying off to Kota Baru, Dr Mahathir met the Orang Asli at a breakfast meeting.

Dr Mahathir urged both communities to continue to support the Government.

At the meeting with the Chinese community, the Prime Minister was accompanied by presidents of MCA, Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, MIC, Datuk Seri

S. Samy Vellu, Gerakan, Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and Kelantan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Mohamed Yaacob.

The Prime Minister also congratulated the local lion dance troupe for its magnificent and entertaining performance.

He wished the troupe "all the best" in its participation at the national-level lion dance competition in November.

He said the cultural performance and the competition were unequivocal proof that there was cultural freedom in this country.

The Prime Minister said while minorities in many neighbouring countries were not allowed to maintain and promote their

identities, the minorities in Malaysia were given not only the freedom but the support of the Government to promote their identities.

Speaking to the Orang Asli this morning, the Prime Minister said he was grateful that they had endured many difficulties to come to Gua Musang for the gathering.

He said he was aware that some of them had left their villages as early as Thursday evening and only arrived here at 4am, yesterday.

However, the Prime Minister said this long journey from the hinterland would not have been possible if there were no roads and transportation from the Orang Asli Affairs Department.

The Orang Asli, he said had begun to enjoy basic amenities like roads, schools and medical clinics.

He hoped that with their support the Government could do more to improve their lot.

The Prime Minister said the Government acknowledged and took cognizance of the fact that the Orang Asli had been loyal supporters of the Government for a long time.

He advised Orang Asli not to be fooled by people who claimed that they brought development to Gua Musang, adding that whoever brought development anywhere did so with the support and funding of the Government.