

PM: United Malaysia is our goal /

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight spoke of his vision of a united Malaysia and said this can only be achieved if Malaysians made it a common goal.

"If the people have separate and conflicting visions, and every race fights and upholds its vision, then, unity is difficult to achieve and disunity will prevail," the Prime Minister said.

"For Malaysia, we have and will continue to struggle for this common vision based on the constitution and the Rukunegara."

Launching the 15th anni-

versary of the Rukun Tetangga scheme at the Putra World Trade Centre, Dr Mahathir, who spoke on nation building, said there had been considerable progress towards a united Malaysia.

"This progress of ours has been the result of the co-operation and contributions of the people and the Government in creating a conducive political and economic climate to foster unity."

He added that this progress would not be achieved "if the people did not want unity and if Malaysians do not exercise moderate values, toler-

ance, a give-and-take attitude and respect the sensitivities and rights of the various races."

"Likewise, this progress will not be achieved if the Government is not stable and strong, if the Government did not represent all the races and the States, and if the Government did not strive to protect and advance the interests of the various races and all levels of society."

On the relationship between the various races, the Prime Minister said it was stable and good.

"The multi-racial people of this country have been able to foster close co-oper-

ation in their political, social and economic activities and advance their interests in a harmonious, peaceful and calm manner," he said.

"Signs of the people going for a Malaysian identity are also appearing and becoming more evident with the use of a common language and education system," he added.

He pledged to resolve sources of potential conflict which could threaten the vision of a united Malaysia, referring to socio-economic imbalances among the races and religious and cultural problems.

In this context, he said the Government would continue to retain the Internal Security Act (ISA) and related laws until the people ensure they will not harp on sensitive issues.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians need to look forward to the 1990s and beyond despite the progress achieved towards a united Malaysia as nation-building was not something which could be realised in 20 or 30 years.

"The unity we have now needs to be consolidated so that we can cope with the various pressures and challenges without easily being intimidated."