

CNS0685

R GE 09-09 00208 EA046

aae tbe

PM - STUDY WAYS TO OVERCOME RACIAL BIAS

Mahathir-goodwill

bm

91
KUALA LUMPUR, Sept. 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called on the people to find ways to overcome racial bias which could still be found today.

+Do we look askance at someone just because of his race? If so, what should we do to avoid racial bias, especially among children, who are segregated because they attend different schools, the Prime Minister said.

He was speaking at a goodwill photography prize presentation ceremony and exhibition organised by the Nanwang SiangPau Chinese daily at Dewan Tun Hussein Onn, Putra World Trade Centre, here today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the people should make an assessment of the situation so that they could forge unity in the community.

He added that efforts to eliminate racial prejudices should be upgraded to achieve the objective of creating a Malaysian nation that was not only loyal to the country but shared a common future.

+Each race has its own cultural values and traits and the thing to do now is to understand the way of lives of the various races, he said. -- more

♥09/09/12-57MST

R GE 09-09 00191 EA047

aae tbe

Mahathir-goodwill 2 Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said better understanding could be achieved through activities, like the goodwill photography competition, that could forge **closer** relations between people of various races at home and abroad.

The unity of the people nurtured through the spirit of goodwill was a vital pre-condition for the country to develop further, he added.

+To ensure a brighter future, it is important that the people, especially the present generation, always preserve the feeling of goodwill among them, he said.

He said living conditions in the country had undergone tremendous change from that of two decades ago due to the co-operation of the **people**, who cast aside racial considerations and demonstrated goodwill, understanding and compromise.

Speaking to reporters, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said more efforts were needed to upgrade unity although much progress had been achieved over the last 20 years.

+The process of integration...process of unity, takes time and we should be patient. There will always be extremists in any community who cannot accept what we do, he added. -- more

♥09/09/13-09MST

R GE 09-09 001.62 EA048

aae tbe

Mahathir-goodwill 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister said, generally, the world had recognised that although Malaysia was multi-racial it had succeeded in fostering racial harmony that was more evident than that achieved by other countries, including the advanced nations.

+I feel today's event would not have been possible 20 years ago,+ he added.

He said ethnic riots always erupted in advanced nations although they only had a small minority of immigrants because of jealousy.

Malaysia was able to check communalism and, at the same time, develop the country and distribute its wealth in a stable nation, he added.

+This is a fact which many foreigners must accept,+ he said.

Foo Kok Kin from Ipoh won the first prize -- a gold medal and \$20,000.

Ten others won excellence awards, silver medals and cash of \$1,000 each in the competition which attracted 600 entries. -- Bernama

♥09/09/13-16MST