

# PM: Self-assessment vital for unity

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that the nation must continue assessing itself so that it will be able to enhance and maintain the spirit of national unity.

The Prime Minister said that the country's main challenge in the future was to create a more united society where the people of different races lived in harmony.

"Our aim is not only to create a single race of Malaysians loyal to the country but a race having a common future.

"To achieve these goals, we have to step up efforts to unite the people while at the same time weed out any emotion of suspicion or prejudice towards one another.

"We have to study what are the causes of racial bias, which still exists till today. Do we look down on someone just because of his race?

"If so, what can we do to rid ourselves of this racial bias, especially among our children who

are separated by different schools," he said in his speech at a **Muhibbah** Photography Contest prize giving ceremony at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The contest organised by *Nanyang Siang Pan* and the Photographic So-

ciety of Malaysia also featured an exhibition of the winning entries.

It was jointly sponsored by Country Heights Sdn Bhd and Malaysia Airlines.

Dr Mahathir said that one immediate action that must be taken by society

was the understanding of values and cultural characteristics peculiar to each race.

He said that because of the existing unity and harmony in the country it was able to concentrate on rapid development and growth.

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