

# PM: My ideas not always accepted

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By Manan Osman

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight said his ideas were not always accepted by Barisan Nasional component party members although many people, especially the Opposition, believed that no one dared to oppose them.

Dr Mahathir said Lim Kit Siang, the DAP secretary-general for instance, would not believe that there were occasions when his ideas were rejected.

However, he said as this only took place behind closed doors, the impression was that Barisan members were always agreeable to

his proposals.

Speaking at the "Malam Mesra Perdana" organised by the Malaysian Parliament Backbenchers Club at Putra World Trade Centre, Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, said there were times when there was a need to agree to enable him to undertake his responsibilities without any obstacle.

He said this attitude of the Barisan component members had enabled the party to remain united for so long, from the days of the Alliance and now the BN.

This spirit, he said, however did not exist in most other countries where incidence of members stabbing

the leaders in the back were common.

He said that the western media which had earlier belittled and criticised Malaysia's policies such as the Look East Policy had now ceased its criticism as the West too was now looking towards the East.

"Now a lot of people from the West even come to learn from us," he said, citing an example of an American who approached him to find out Malaysia's secret in maintaining a peaceful and harmonious nation.

Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional secretary-general Abdul Ghafar Baba reiterated his support for the Prime

Minister's leadership and called on all BN leaders to rally behind Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir, he said, had faced a lot of problems and difficulties during his tenure of office but had successfully overcome them.

Earlier, chairman of the Backbenchers Club Shahidan Kassim said Malaysia had managed to improve its image and status as a result of the able and dedicated leadership of Dr Mahathir.

Delivering a *People's Declaration*, Shahidan said: "He has successfully upgraded the socio-economic standard of the people as well as improve Malaysia's economic status in the eyes of the world," he said.