

Miyazawa praises Dr M's leadership

KUALA LUMPUR: Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has praised Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his "hard-nosed and clear-headed" leadership in bringing development to the country.

He said it was no easy task for Malaysia to achieve economic progress while consolidating its political stability.

"Only through strenuous efforts of the people guided by hard-nosed and clear-headed political leadership did it materialise," he said at a dinner hosted by Dr Mahathir last night.

Miyazawa said Dr Mahathir had managed well the dynamism of a diverse society and steered Malaysia through difficult times.

He said the relationship be-

tween Japan and Malaysia could be seen as a model benefiting both parties.

The Look East policy, initiated by Dr Mahathir, had just passed its first successful decade, he said, noting that over 3,000 Malaysian youths have studied in Japan and the policy now symbolised the friendship between the two countries.