

M'sia wants moral and material wealth, says PM

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BANDAR *trips* SERI
BEGAWAN: Malaysia aspires to be a developed nation which is rich materially while maintaining its culture and high moral standards, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said many developed countries had failed to sustain their ethical values and this had resulted in social problems.

"We want to become a developed country with high moral standards, high intellectual capacity and highly knowledgeable to ensure that we do not have to depend on others," he said at a dinner hosted by the Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Datuk Haji Mustafa Mohamed and organised by the Malaysian Citizens Committee here.

He also stressed the importance of maintaining stability so that the country could achieve developed nation status.

He also called on Ma-

laysian citizens abroad to remember the important dates in the history of the country to inculcate nationalism and a love for the country.

"Malaysians abroad must also contribute to the efforts in achieving the objectives of Vision 2020," he added.

The Malaysians in Brunei, who make up 10 per cent of the population of the sultanate, were also urged to play their roles as the "ambassadors" of the country.

The Prime Minister, who arrived here yesterday for a three-day official visit to enhance bilateral relations and increase trade between the two countries, was met at the Brunei International Airport by Foreign Minister and the Sultan's personal representative Pen-

giran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah.

Dr Mahathir also inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by the 111 Royal Brunei Armed Forces personnel.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Taib Mahmud.

Dr Mahathir and the Brunei ruler, Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah, are to meet today in private at the Istana Nurul Iman.

The two leaders were expected to discuss bilateral issues as well as regional and international matters.

Dr Mahathir would also attend a special briefing by the Brunei Economic Planning Unit at the International Convention Centre here.