

Preserve the magic of Malaysia, says PM

KUCHING, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight that the "magic of Malaysia" is not only its ability to unite the people of at least 20 races but also to have an attitude of tolerance.

He said Malaysians should stand tall and be proud of their country.

Speaking at a Barisan Nasional (BN) thanksgiving dinner at the Santubong resort, 32km from here, Dr Mahathir said:

"It is a great feat to get 14 different political parties to work together to sit on the same table and talk. That is the magic of Malaysia."

Dr Mahathir said the potential of Malaysia is unlimited and the people should work together to make it a great country.

"We can stand tall and be proud to call ourselves Ma-

laysians. No longer will they migrate to other countries.

"Instead, those who have migrated will come back because they now feel proud that this is their country...the country they owe their loyalty to."

He said there were some extremists who interpret their religion in such a way that it was impossible to get together with others.

However, in Malaysia, the people have shown that they are able to sit together at one table despite their diverse background and unite for the sake of peace and harmony.

"Because Malaysians are tolerant, we can have the BN's 14 different parties representing many different races, cultures, religions, and languages, all working together as a single party.

"The BN parties can con-

test an election, campaign for each other and support one other and still win with a vast majority. This is our strength, so let us preserve it," he added.

Dr Mahathir said that despite all the predictions from the Western media that Malaysia would have another May 13 incident, they had been proven wrong. He said that there was no room for racists or narrow religious sentiments in the country.

Dr Mahathir added that with the victory in the general election, BN leaders must not be complacent and forget the ordinary Malaysians.

"They gave us this backing and it is our duty to return it to them. It is our duty to work together to enable every race, every group in the country to benefit from the BN Government."