

Tolerance key to unity and success, says PM

PENANG, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the tolerant attitude among Malaysians is the key to unity and co-operation.

He said a similar attitude prevailed in the Barisan Nasional coalition resulting in a united and strong party and Government.

He said the BN's unity, involving a coalition of 14 parties, had become the envy of many visiting foreign dignitaries who wanted to know the formula for its success.

In some countries, he said, even a two-party coalition would not come to terms on many issues.

Dr Mahathir said although a small fraction of the community was quite extreme in thinking, the country was lucky as the majority of its people were moderate and believe in sharing and co-operating with one another.

He said this at a State banquet held in conjunction with his working visit to the State — his first after the April general election.

He was accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail and Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and Puan Seri Chui Kah Peng.