

Call to safeguard Barisan concept

JOHOR BARU, Mon. — The Barisan Nasional system of power-sharing is unique and should be safeguarded at all costs, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said Malaysia was the only country in the world that had been able to unite 14 political parties under the BN coalition and rule the country in peace, harmony and stability over the last 38 years.

"In other countries, the more coalition partners they have, the more problems they face. But for the BN in Malaysia, the more

the merrier," he said at a BN victory dinner here.

More than 5,000 BN leaders and supporters attended the dinner, held at the Dataran Bandaraya here.

They included Menteri Besar Abdul Ghani Othman, Johor BN chief Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid A. Basri, Health Minister Chua Jui Meng and MIC deputy president Datuk S. Subramaniam.

Dr Mahathir said what

made the BN tick was not just its ability to govern the country but its commitment to serve the people from all walks of life.

He said the ruling coalition had a good track record of consistently delivering the goods to the people and fulfilling promises made during elections.

Another special feature about the BN, he added, was the fact that the predominantly Malay populace were willing to not only share power but also the wealth of the country with the other races.

He said while it was rela-

tively easy to share power as it only involved giving the people the right to vote, sharing wealth was a different matter all together.

"The process of sharing wealth is not easy. But in Malaysia we have made it work through pragmatic economic policies and programmes aimed at ensuring a fair distribution of wealth to all races," he said.

Dr Mahathir urged the people to understand the "BN way", adding that even the Opposition should try and understand the BN concept because it was unique.