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PM equates Lim's success to the story of Malaysia

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TYCOON Tan Sri Lim Goh Tong last night celebrated his 80th birthday with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad paying tribute to the entrepreneur's success, equating it to the story of Malaysia.

"Tan Sri Lim is typical of many Malaysians who have worked to make money for themselves, and in the process have contributed to Malaysia," Dr Mahathir said at a gala dinner in Kuala Lumpur last night.

Malaysia, he said, is among the more fortunate developing countries as it has been able to develop faster than some others. He attributed the success in some way to the cooperation between the Government and the private sector.

Citing Lim as an example, Dr Mahathir said: "Tan Sri Lim has translated into reality what we only hoped to see."

He added in jest: "The Government is happy with Lim's success, you know why - he pays a lot of taxes."

Lim, who came to Malaya in 1937 from China to work as a carpenter, was listed by Forbe's magazine as the 156th richest person in the world in 1993.

In 1965 Lim started developing Genting Highlands Resort where the country's only casino is located. He is now chairman of the Genting group of companies.

In a speech read out by his son Datuk Lim Kok Thay, in which he commented on the success of Genting Highlands as a resort, Lim said: "I was successful because other people also believed in my dream."

In conjunction with his birthday, Lim last night donated RM3.8 million to charity through Yayasan Lim, which he founded in 1978.

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