

Religious groups 37 'must work together'

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KOTA KINABALU: Religious bodies in Sabah must work together for the benefit of the country — this was the message Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had for the state's religious leaders at a meeting with them yesterday.

Sabah Council of Churches president Bishop Datuk Yong Ping Chung told reporters after the meeting that the Prime Minister also shared his vision of tolerance among all religious groups.

"Basically, he told us that no one group should dominate others and that we should respect and understand each other," he said.

Describing the hour-long meeting with Dr Mahathir as uplifting and very positive, Bishop Yong said that at the event, the Council of Churches also expressed its gratitude to the state government for the annual grants to non-Muslim religious bodies in Sabah.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok and Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam and Datuk Tham Nyip Shen were also present at the meeting.

Others at the meeting were the state mufti Datuk Ismail Hassan, Sabah Islamic Affairs Department's Datuk Jamdin Buyong as well as representatives from Hindu and Buddhist associations.