

Don't forget roots, PM reminds youth

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PENANG: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday reminded the younger generation not to forget their roots and the struggles of past leaders.

The Prime Minister said the country had a unique governing system whereby the communists, represented by various parties, had made a pact to work together to achieve independence under the Alliance and subsequently the Barisan Nasional.

The coalition, where every party was given equal voice, had resulted in the ridding of hatred and jealousies among the races and uniting the people, he said when opening the new Menara Umno here

yesterday.

The Barisan, he said, had 14 component parties and if any party were to pull out, the coalition would face some problems but it would survive.

However, he said it was important for Umno to continue to be the backbone of the Barisan.

He added that Umno had become strong because the party did not abuse its power or become involved in "derogatory activities" such as cronyism, crony capitalism, and nepotism.

He added that the country need not bow to the International Monetary Fund because of the strong government and the support received from the people.

"Support has come not only come from the peo-

ple and Barisan component parties but others as well, especially my good friend (DAP deputy chairman) Karpal Singh. For the first time, my friend has made a statement to support me," he said.

He also recited a *pan-tun* to reflect the Malays' standing in the past: *Pulau Pinang Negri Baru, Kaptain Light menjadi Raja, Bila terkenang zaman dahulu, Turun Mengalir Airmata.*

(Penang is a new state, Capt Light is the King, When we reminisce on the past, Tears flow from the eyes.)

Although the community was still a minority in Penang, he said the Malays have managed to find their identity and achieved success *though* the Barisan coalition.