

# Dr M: Mutual respect key to our strength

KUALA LUMPUR: There have been no race riots in the country despite massive economic problems because development among communities has been shared equally, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He pointed out that there have been race riots in other multi-racial countries affected by the present Asian financial crisis.

"But here in Malaysia this has not happened because we respect each other and we are sensitive to each other.

"No race feels threatened by others nor is there fear of each other. We must value this (respect for each other). This is our advantage. S 1.6.98

"Today, we are faced with a severe economic problem, which is the enemy. The problem is caused by greedy people and we should fight together to revive our economy," he said when launching the MCA's *Love Malaysia* and *Buy Malaysia* campaigns and concert at Dataran Merdeka here last night.

Congratulating the MCA for organising the campaigns to kindle the people's love for the country, he said:

"I am very proud of tonight's function. This shows that the people love Malaysia."

He also described the pause in the function – at 8.34pm for several minutes as a mark of respect for the call to *Isyak* prayers – as being sensitive to each other's race.

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# Dr M: Be sensitive to others

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"When we are sensitive and we respect others, they will be sensitive to us.

"Although tonight's function is organised by the MCA, therefore there are many Chinese attending, but yet they were sensitive about the Malays and other Muslims performing their prayers in the nearby National Mosque," said Dr Mahathir.

The Prime Minister took a swipe at the foreign media, saying they should witness the multi-racial gathering last night.

"I invite the foreign

media to attend this function which I am confident they won't report. They often report (that) although Malaysia looks peaceful but below the surface there is a lot of tension between the races.

"But when they see a function like tonight's, they close their eyes, ears and their brain totally," he said.

Dr Mahathir reminded the people to fight to save the country, economy and themselves if they did not want to be colonised again.

"We have to do things to save ourselves. Firstly, we must strengthen our

spirit, especially our love for the country.

"This is why tonight's function is so important. Tonight the people have shown that they love Malaysia," he added.

Dr Mahathir reminded the various communities to work together to fight off foreigners who wanted to buy up "all our banks, our big companies."

He also told the gathering of the importance of buying locally made products.

He also assured them that buying local products did not mean buying inferior products as "made in Malaysia products are of

world quality and are better and cheaper than some foreign products."

"There are good quality jeans made in Malaysia, electronic products are made in Malaysia and our Proton and Kancil cars are good enough to be exported," he said.

"When we buy our own products, we are telling the world we love the country and are willing to sacrifice to fight for our economy."

Dr Mahathir said if the people continued to show their support for the economy, the country could achieve its Vision 2020 objective of being a developed nation.