

06/08/1999

Races can mingle due to peace, says PM

MIRI, Thurs. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight told more than 20,000 Dayaks, Ibans, Melanaus and Malaysians of other descent that the fact they could get together peacefully was something unique.

"We can do this because we don't begrudge one another," the Prime Minister said when he addressed the meet-the-people session in the town's sprawling amphitheatre.

The Prime Minister said when he landed at the airport this morning, he marvelled at the variety of cultural dances performed by the various ethnic groups to welcome his entourage.

He said while this might not be unusual to locals, it showed how Malaysians could co-exist and retain their cultural heritage.

There was peace and harmony because the Barisan Nasional was represented by all communities, he said.

As for continued progress under the Alliance and BN, Dr Mahathir recounted his first visit to Miri in 1965 when he accompanied the then Deputy Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak.

There were no hotels, and the two leaders put up at Shell's quarters. Miri was then nothing more than a "Shell kampung", he quipped.

Now, he said, Miri has comprehensive infrastructure with international-class hotels.

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