

# Dr M: Tolerance and

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# co-operation vital

## Open house concept unique aspect of Malaysian life

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Tolerance and co-operation among all races needs to be preserved to enable the *rakyat* to live in harmony: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said tolerance also enabled people from the different races to celebrate each other's religious festivals in a peaceful manner.

"There are not a lot of other countries where the people, such as in Malaysia, can observe these religious occasions without any problems from other parties."

"Islam is the country's official religion but the Constitution allows people from different races to observe their respective religious events. This is what gives harmony to our country," he said at the Wesak Day Open House 2000 at the Mines Resort.

Also present were Dr Mahathir's wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ah, Local Government and Housing Minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting and Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn.

Dr Mahathir said that the *rakyat's* ability to celebrate diverse festivals through the "open house" concept was one of the unique aspects of Malaysian life.