

Be ambassadors, Mahathir tells Malaysians overseas

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DUBAI: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that Malaysians living overseas are like ambassadors and have the responsibility of upholding the good name of the country.

In their own ways, they could help the country by encouraging the local community in which they were living with to understand Malaysia, the Prime Minister said.

"Better still, invite them to Malaysia so that they can tell their families and friends about our country," he said at a dinner hosted by the Malaysian Club in United Arab

Emirates on Thursday night.

The club which was set up recently by a group of Malaysians residing in UAE has about 100 members of various races doing business or working as professionals there.

Dr Mahathir said they should be proud the country was stable and developing well despite recent efforts by some people to disrupt peace in the country.

Club president Sabaruddin Ismail, in his welcoming speech, said that besides promoting social interaction among Malaysians in UAE, the club's objective was to organise programmes to enhance

the country's image in the UAE.

"Collectively, we hope to counter negative reports on Malaysia, picked up by the local media from foreign wire services, by explaining the real situation back home.

"We believe our stand is shared by the majority of Malaysians in the UAE and together we will be more successful in convincing people who harbour negative views about Malaysia," he said.

About 300 Malaysians attended the dinner to honour Dr Mahathir who was on a two-day working visit to Dubai from Thursday.