

PM: Respect each other's religion

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Tolerance the key to prevent violent incidents: Dr M

PETALING JAYA, Sun: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on Malaysians today to be tolerant and respect each other's religious beliefs as this can prevent violent incidents.

Mahathir said they should solve misunderstandings amicably and peacefully

among themselves or through the government instead of taking action on their own.

"If there are misunderstandings among the races in the country, the people should try to solve them peacefully and not act on their own as through this efforts, the country can

remain to be peaceful," he said.

Speaking at a Wesak Day open house at the Civic Hall here organised by the Malaysian Buddhist Association, Mahathir said if there is no sense of tolerance among races in the country, the relationship among the races will become tense.

Therefore, he said, all the races must be tolerant and respect the religious beliefs of others because, by doing so, many things such as tension, religious misunderstandings and even war or riots can be avoided.

"If war starts among races, it's difficult to defuse the situation," he said.

Citing an example, Mahathir said religious incidents in countries such as Northern Ireland and Palestine, were caused by the lack of respect for other religions.

He said Malaysians should be grateful as there is no such religious tension

despite the multi-racial society and the existence of the various places of worship for

the various races and religions.

Present were Datin Seri

Dr Siti Hasmah and leaders of Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh associations.