

No need for govt to apologise to anyone for using ISA, says PM

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STAR

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MALACCA: A dinner with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad attended by thousands of people here yesterday has made it into the *Malaysia Book of Records*.

An estimated 25,000 people turned up for the dinner at Dataran Sejarah in Ayer Keroh, breaking the previous record of 20,200 in Negri Sembilan.

The *Malaysian Book of Records* managing director, Danny Oii, presented a certificate acknowledging the new record to Dr Mahathir, who celebrated his 20th anniversary as

Prime Minister yesterday. Dr Mahathir then handed over the certificate to Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam.

Also present at the dinner were former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba and Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn.

Speaking at the dinner, Dr Mahathir said the Government would not apologise to anyone for the detentions under the Internal Security Act.

He said the detainees had planned street demonstrations and purchased arms to topple the Government.

"We were very fortunate we had received information ear-

ly on and were able to act fast.

"If they are tried in open court, they would have had slick lawyers to bail them out.

"What is important is the freedom of the majority."

Dr Mahathir also thanked Ali for organising such a mammoth event, saying there should be more gatherings to foster stronger ties between the races and to show the world how different races could be united.

"To continue enjoying this unity, Malaysia must maintain the different languages and cultures like Malay, Chinese, Indian, Portuguese, Baba Nyonya, Chitty and even Orang Asli," he said.