

Uniting Malays Umno's New Year resolution

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PM: We will also strengthen ties among BN component parties

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon: Umno's New Year resolution is to unite the Malays and party members, and strengthen the unity among Barisan Nasional component parties.

But this unity process should not take place just to create animosity among others, Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We should not be united just to oppose others. Instead, the Malays' priority must be to protect their interests, not by being enemies with others after uniting," he said after attending the People's Progressive Party's New Year open house at PWTC here.

Mahathir was asked to comment on Umno's initiative to hold discussions on Malay unity with opposition parties such as PAS and Parti Keadilan Nasional, as well as Malay-based non-governmental organisations; which had drawn positive response from various quarters.

The prime minister also said Malays should not to be too comfortable and feel secure just because one or two of them are doing well.

"Malays do not realise their weaknesses ... just because there are a few Malays

who have succeed, they think they are strong. But this is not the case," he said.

On his New Year wish, Mahathir, alluding to the demands of the Malaysian Chinese Organisations Election Appeals Committee (Suqiu), said: "From a very harmonious society, we have a very contentious society in Malaysia after certain quar-

ters raised sensitive issues infringing on other races.

"So, I hope in this New Year, people will return to their senses and revive the racial harmony which have been achieved after a long struggle."

Mahathir said this also in response to an open letter by *Utusan Malaysia* group editor Khalid Mohd today, which

focused on the question of Malay unity.

Khalid had described the Malays today as being divided and threatened.

Saying the Malays must take a long, hard look at where the events of last year had led them, he urged them to put aside their differences for the good of the race, or risk losing everything.