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Malays able to hold top jobs, says Mahathir

ALOR STAR, Thurs: Malays are able to hold top positions in various fields, including representing multinationals in the region, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said Malays can also hold high positions in the country's armed forces.

"The same goes to Malaysian Chinese who can also hold high positions in the military and we even have many Chinese officers in the air force," he told reporters after

attending a Chinese New Year open house in Changloon organised by the Kubang Pasu MCA division here today.

The prime minister, who declined to comment on Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong's statement that Singapore Malays are better than Malays in this country, said he only knew of the conditions of Malaysian Malays and not those Malays in Singapore.

"I do not care for his comparison.

"I do not wish to criticise them.

"What I know is that Malays in this country can be anything they want including doctors, pilots or university professors.

"We do not see Malays as those with weaker brains ... we see them as people with potential," he said.

On another note, Mahathir said he had advised Universiti Malaya to continue running its science matriculation centre.

The university had announced recently that the centre would be closed by April.

Mahathir, who was the Education Minister in 1977, had approved the proposal to open the centre by the former vice-chancellor of the university Prof di-Raja Ungku Aziz.

The university's decision to close the centre has received mixed response from various quarters including former students of the centre.

Mahathir is here on a two-day visit.

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