

# PM pays tribute to his predecessors

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**PUTRAJAYA:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night paid tribute to his predecessors, from whom he inherited foundations to build a progressive and an advanced Malaysia.

He said one of the brilliant ideas of Malaysia's first premier was the setting up of a coalition of multi-racial parties before general elections were held in the early years of independence.

"In other countries, people usually have a coalition after

general elections in order to seek a majority in Parliament to form a government.

"Often, it is the bigger party who invites the smaller counterpart to join the coalition.

"The assumption is that the smaller parties will be willing to follow the lead of the bigger parties.

"But this may not always be the case as the smaller parties can hold the bigger ones to ransom," he said at a dinner held in his honour as the "CEO of Malaysia Inc."

In contrast, the Barisan Nasional coalition, he said, worked and behaved almost like one party and component members could rely on each other for support to ensure a victory during elections.

"Thus, it is easy for us to form a strong government.

"We have to be strong because we must make very unpopular decisions.

"A populist government cannot rule efficiently. I am very grateful to my predecessors," he added.