

# More appreciating spirit of Patriotism

S - 7 AUG 2003

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** More Malaysians are showing the spirit of patriotism through an increasing number of activities to demonstrate that feeling when compared to previous decades, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"Over the past few years, many have begun to show their appreciation for the struggle for independence through the different activities such as organising expeditions around the country."

He said this was good because if Malaysians had forgotten the struggle, the country would also forget how to defend its independence.

Dr Mahathir said there were many

Malaysians who were born after independence and did not understand the meaning of colonisation.

"We assume that achieving independence is normal but many forget the hard work that people had to go through to accomplish it," he said when opening the "Images and Voices of Independence" exhibition organised by Maybank and Anugerah Gallery Sdn Bhd last night.

He said there were many countries that were still being colonised and they would appreciate the struggle for independence more than Malaysians.

"Those nations will feel disappointed with their own situation when they see Malaysia's progress as an indepen-

dent country," he added.

Dr Mahathir said this was why efforts to boost the spirit of patriotism amongst Malaysians should be lauded, as it would remind people of the harmony and stability enjoyed by all in the country.

"If we had not achieved independence, we would not have been able to benefit from the successes of the country today," he added.

Dr Mahathir also received a cheque for RM200,000 on behalf of the Warriors' Day Fund donated by Malayan Banking Berhad.

Part of the proceeds from the exhibition, which features 107 art pieces on patriotism, will also be donated to the fund.