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Mahathir-Race

MALAYSIANS EARN PRAISES FROM DR MAHATHIR FOR RACIAL TOLERANCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today paid tribute to all Malaysians for being able to live harmoniously with each other, unlike in other multiracial countries.

"While we cannot say that we are already just one race, we are much more harmonious in our attitude towards each other than in most other countries.

"I think we have done better than most other countries which have a multiracial population," he told a media conference after chairing his last Umno supreme council meeting, here.

Dr Mahathir steps down as prime minister and Umno president tomorrow. He will be succeeded by his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The outgoing leader was asked by a foreign journalist how the "Malaysian race" could be achieved, given the existence of what he described as barriers in achieving the goal.

Dr Mahathir said that in some other countries there was discrimination and lack of cooperation among the different races.

"In any case, I would like to point out to you that in future there will be no single ethnic country. Every country will have people of different races living together.

"And we have already noticed the discrimination against races, especially Asians and Africans, in European countries and in America. And now of course there is discrimination against Muslims," he said.

He said Muslims were now suspected of being terrorists whereas everybody knew that terrorists could also be non-Muslims.

"So it is good if the people in these countries focus on how to unite their own people," he added.

-- BERNAMA

MAM AZZ JK