

# Sarawak's balanced growth praised

13 APR 2004

**MIRI:** Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has commended the Sarawak government for its well-planned and environment-friendly projects which, he said, had brought a balanced social and economic development to the state.

The former Prime Minister said he was impressed with the pace of growth in the urban centres, especially in Miri, which he said was at par with major urban centres in Peninsular Malaysia.

"So much improvement can be seen here. I am very impressed. We have a very good Government that not only has capable *wakil rakyat* but also solid grassroots support for projects by the authorities.

"We also have very moderate thinking people who have helped to make a success of our multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-religious society," he said during a state dinner on Sunday held in his honour.

He was on a four-day visit to

Sarawak.

Dr Mahathir said he was glad that infrastructure and social development in the state had been implemented without sacrificing the environment.

"Miri is well landscaped and well-organised. The state government and the people had worked well together for the betterment of society," he said.

Dr Mahathir singled out two major projects here as outstanding – the RM14mil Pustaka Miri electronic library and information hub and the RM500mil Curtin University of Technology Sarawak campus.

He toured the two sites and described them as "world-class".

"That is why in Miri, there is no need for the Barisan Nasional to campaign. We can win uncontested," he jested, in reference to Miri being one of the six parliamentary seats in the state that was won uncontested at the recent elections.