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Food business can forge closer racial ties, says Dr Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Although many new towns have emerged over the years, the population does not necessarily reflect racial integration, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight.

The former Prime Minister said one method of forging closer racial ties in such towns was through the food business.

Speaking at the launch of Maju Avenue in Plaza OUG, a restaurant operated by the Indian-Muslim franchise Maju Curry House, Dr Mahathir said all races should get involved in the business sector.

"We do not want one particular race monopolising a particular field. We would like to see the involvement of all races as this will benefit all," he said.

However, Dr Mahathir said the standards of eateries must be enhanced to reflect a developed Malaysia.

"Restaurateurs must upgrade their outlets, implementing and putting into practice quality systems and practices," he said.

Dr Mahathir praised Maju Curry House for its plans to set up an academy to train would-be restaurateurs.