

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 01/09/2007

'It's not impossible to live in peace'

NST- 1/9/2007

■ **By Eileen Ng,
June Ramli and
Minderjeet Kaur**
news@nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians have to work at maintaining peace, unity, harmony and stability to ensure a future worth living. The consensus among leaders of various political parties is that there was no way the nation can progress without these fundamentals strongly entrenched in the Malaysian psyche.

International Trade and Industries Minister and Umno Wanita chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said it is important for today's youth to value our culture.

"We can educate them and give them skills but I would worry if they began to lose the Malaysian culture."

Home Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Radzi Sheikh Ahmad said he hopes the celebrations of 50 years of nationhood will be a step towards further

growth.

"What we saw today was the fruit of the success of 50 years of independence, and I hope our efforts will grow further."

MCA president and Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting was touched by the unity displayed in the Merdeka parade yesterday. He said it is crucial to set the right tone for multi-racial co-operation in the years to come for the country to continue to be successful.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said all Malaysians must continue to work together, adding that the country has a lot going for it, including the fact that it was economically stronger than other countries which achieved independence at the same time.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Zulhasnan Rafique said the Merdeka celebrations showed the integration of the races.

"But we must now concentrate on the next 50 years. We



Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz says it is important for youths to value the Malaysian culture

must strengthen the unity and peace among the races."

Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang said the focus now should be on the next 50 years. Weaknesses in the way things have been done should be reviewed and improvements in-



Datuk Seri Mohd Radzi Sheikh Ahmad hopes for more growth

roduced for the good of all.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the celebration of our 50th year of independence has been the sweetest and most meaningful.

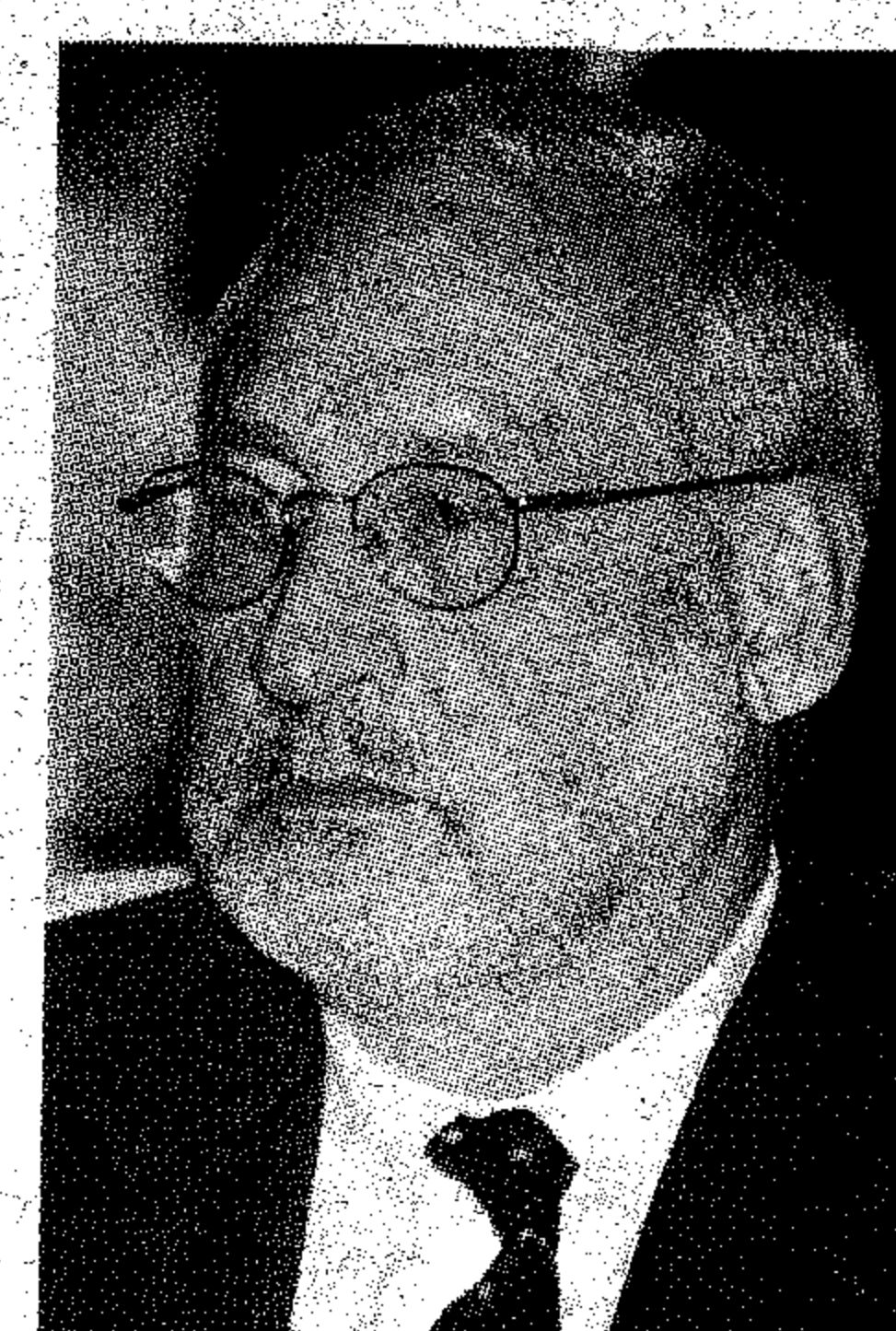
"Today's event was very



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says this year's celebrations have been the sweetest

special to me, especially the segment depicting the struggles and contributions of five prime ministers throughout the 50 years."

Nobel laureate Joseph E. Stiglitz said he found yesterday's celebrations "very



Joseph E. Stiglitz says it is not impossible to live in peace and harmony

moving".

"Malaysia has proven that it's not impossible to live in peace and harmony, even with people from various racial backgrounds. Not many countries can do this," said the renowned economist.