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Dr M: Govt can't meet all demands

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the various races in the country must accept that all their claims cannot be fulfilled by the Government.

He said if all the races could accept this, then the country would remain peaceful, thus enabling rapid economic development.

He said if any ethnic race wanted its demands to be fulfilled, then it would indirectly deny other races of their rights, thus creating unhealthy competition between them.

"In order to ensure peace in Malaysia, each race must accept that not all of their demands can be entertained," he said in the programme *Bicara Negarawan bersama Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad* aired on TV1 last night.

The three-member panel in the programme comprised Bernama editor-in-chief Datuk Yong Soo Heong, Utusan Group assistant chief editor I Datuk Zaini Hassan and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak lecturer Dr Jeniri Amir.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was among the nations that had granted freedom to all races in the country to use their own vernaculars besides the national language in schools, adding that the freedom was given in respect to the wishes of certain groups.

He said issues concerning claims of equality could be corrected by giving a deep understanding to the various races in the country on the principles that had been practised since the formation of Malaysia. - Bernama.