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Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad being greeted by attendees of a 1Malaysia dinner with several Chinese non-governmental organisations in Gurun. Pic by Lim Poh Chin

Chinese businesses prosper under BN rule, says Dr M

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NOT NEGLECTED: Wealth and power sharing formula successful

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THE Barisan Nasional government has never neglected the welfare and needs of the Chinese community since the country gained independence in 1957, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The former prime minister said this was because BN, which was previously known as Parti Perikatan, practised wealth and power sharing among the people of all races.

"During British colonisation, the Chinese community ventured into business. However, they did not earn much as they were hindered from expanding their businesses during the period.

"All that changed after Umno together with MCA and MIC

formed Parti Perikatan to gain the country's independence. Since then, the lot of the people, especially Chinese entrepreneurs, have improved.

"Some of them have expanded their businesses globally and become billionaires," he said in his speech during a 1Malaysia dinner with several Chinese non-governmental organisations in Gurun near here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir took a swipe at DAP for its attempt to portray MCA as a party that had neglected the needs of the Chinese community.

"MCA agreed to work with Umno and MIC because it believed in power and wealth sharing among people of all races in the country.

"This concept has worked in Malaysia and the people, regardless of race, have managed to live in peace and harmony," he said, adding that the people should reject any effort to cause disunity among the people.

Present were his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Ali and several Kedah BN election candidates.

Dr Mahathir cautioned the people in the state from falling for the lies spewed by the opposition in Kedah.

"During the past five years, what did the Pased state government do for the people?"

"Only BN can develop the state and create job opportunities to improve the livelihood of the people," he said.

