

Recognise MA63 to sort out differences, says Dr M

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PETALING JAYA: The Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) should be recognised so that Sabah and Sarawak can be considered as equal partners with Peninsular Malaysia, says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The former prime minister said the dissatisfaction due to differences from some could be resolved if MA63 was recognised.

"I still remember the proclamation of Malaysia by Tunku Abdul Rahman at Stadium Merdeka on the morning of Sept 16, 1963.

"I was 38 years old then," Dr Mahathir said in a Facebook post yesterday, in conjunction with Malaysia Day.

Dr Mahathir, 95, was prime min-

ister for 22 years from 1981 to 2003 and for a second time from 2018 to 2020.

Dr M added that while he was proud that then Malaya joined hands with North Borneo (now Sabah) as well as Sarawak and Singapore to form "one big Malaysia", he was also nervous at the time.

"I was nervous as the proclamation received strong opposition from neighbouring countries. Thank God, today marks 57 years of Malaysia's existence," he said.

Dr Mahathir added that Malaysia had endured much and come far.

"Singapore has left, but the strength of the relationship between Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah and

Sarawak has become stronger.

"In any big family, there will be dissatisfaction. This has to be considered and a meeting point needs to be found so that our relationship does not break down.

"This is why we ask that MA63 be supported fully and we accept Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah and Sarawak as equal partners.

"Selamat Hari Malaysia," said Dr Mahathir.

Leaders from Sabah and Sarawak, including MPs, have asked for MA63 to be recognised by amending Article 1 (2) of the Federal Constitution to restore the status of the two states as associate members of Peninsular Malaysia, in line with MA63.



Happy birthday, Malaysia: Women in traditional costumes smiling as the Jalur Gemilang is unfurled in Tuaran, Sabah. — ZULAZHAR SHEBLEE/ The Star