

M'sians praised for racial tolerance

MM 31/10/2003 - 4 PRECISE
PRIME Minister Da.uk Sen
Dr Mahathir Mohamad
yesterday paid tribute to
all Malaysians for being
able to live harmoniously
with one another, unlike in
other multiracial coun-
tries.

"While we cannot say
that we are already just
one race, we are much
more harmonious in our
attitude towards each
other than in most other
countries.

"I think we have done
better than most other
countries which have "a
multiracial population." he
told a media conference
after chairing his last
Ijrno supreme council
meeting, here.

Dr Mahathir steps down
as Prime Minister and
Umno president tomorrow.
He will be succeeded by
his deputy. Datuk Seri
Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The outgoing leader was
asked by a foreign jour-
nalist how the "Malaysian
race" could be achieved,
given the existence of what
he described as barriers in
achieving the goal.

Dr Mahathir said that in
some other countries there
was discrimination and
lack of cooperation among
the different races.

"In any case. I would like
to point out to you that in
future there will be no sin-
gle ethnic country. Every
country will have people of
different races living
together.

"And we have already
noticed the discrimination
against races, especially
Asians and Africans, in
European countries and in
America. And how of
course there is discrimi-
nation against Muslims,"
he said. - Bernama