

Success story of unity in diversity

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PETALING JAYA: Several political leaders said Malaysia's multi-ethnicity is unique and that being united is the formula of the country's success.

MCA vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek said the people should be talking about the spirit of Rakyat Malaysia, and added: "Our freedom to practise our respective cultures, beliefs and religions is en-

shrined in the Constitution. The question of assimilation of any one race into another does not arise at all."

Citing the Barisan Nasional as a prime example of "unity in diversity", Dr Chua said it was a fact that Malaysian political parties - ruling or opposition - were still based on a racial basis.

Dr Chua said no race should have a monopoly of everything

and every Malaysian had a right to participate in the country's development.

MCA Youth chief Datuk Liow Tiong Lai said Johor Umno chief Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman need not worry about the creation of a Bangsa Malaysia as unity among people of different races was more important.

Gerakan vice-president Datuk Dr S. Vijayarajam said the

Bangsa Malaysia concept did not imply a "rojak" of races, but would strengthen national unity. He said the concept did not make one any less a Malay, Chinese, Indian, Iban or a Kadazan.

Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang described Abdul Ghani's remarks as "unMalaysian" and not in line with the Vision 2020 concept.