

BEAR THE BLAME!

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DR. MAHATHIR . . . everything ready

Your fault if projects fail Dr. M tells officers

IPOH, Fri. — Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today development programmes were ready and money for them was available so if projects failed, the officers responsible for implementation must bear the blame.

Speaking to senior Government and statutory body officers here, he said a high level of efficiency was required to overcome failure.

He said when failures occurred in development programmes, some officers had been quick to pass the blame to others.

"The officers must correct themselves before they start correcting others. There must be self-criticism by all, from Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister all the way down the line."

Government officers must upgrade their capability.

"Don't think you know everything," he said.

Dr. Mahathir said the officers must study development plans properly and not waste funds on worthless projects.

He said that as the Government's recurrent expenditure absorbed most of its revenue, development projects were mostly financed by foreign and local loans.

The officers must appreciate the value of the money they were spending in the name of development.

"We must show that we are credit worthy," he said.

On maintenance of security, he said this was closely related to development.

The officers must make the people aware of the full implications of the Communist terrorists threats to the nation and make them realise it was a "people's war" against the terrorists.

Dr. Mahathir said that after 400 years of rule by foreigners, Malaysia was finally free. But 19 years of Merdeka should not delude the people into thinking independence is forever.

There were forces waiting for the opportunity to take over the nation.

DEFEND

The people must continue to be vigilant against such elements and help to defend and develop the nation.

Dr. Mahathir was earlier briefed on development and security in Perak at the State Operations Room here.

Among those present were Mentri Besar, Tan Sri Ghazali Jawi; Deputy Minister in the PM's Department, Dato Sri Haji Kamaruddin bin Mohamed Isa and State secretary, Radin Soenarno.