

# Democracy and

STAR 3 - 060 1977

# us — by Dr M

PENANG, Tues. — Democracy in Malaysia is not dead, Deputy Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said here last night.

"Its success here is based on the rational thinking and co-operation of the various races," he added.

Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir, speaking at a state dinner at the Rasa Sayang Hotel at which he and his wife, Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah, were the guests of honour, said the National Front government was formed because Umno was a democratic party which wanted to share its powers with others.

"Umno is willing to share its powers to create political stability in the country," he said.

He called on all political

parties to co-operate and ensure this stability, instead of harping on issues that might create misunderstanding.

The Deputy Premier said there were some Malaysians who had criticised Malaysia when comparing her with other developed countries.

## PEACEFUL

"They say openly that Malaysia has not been able to achieve her aims," he said.

"However, we have seen much progress since Merdeka. This has been made possible because our people understand democracy and its limitations."

He said that though race was a serious problem, Malaysia was able to handle it

well compared with other countries.

Malaysia faced the problem without emotion, but with goodwill and brotherhood, in line with the aims of creating a united, peaceful and just society.

On dissatisfaction among the people, he said the problem could be solved through negotiation.

The problem also prevailed in most countries and was not peculiar to Malaysia.

Touching on disparity between the rich and poor, he said the problem was not as serious as reported in a New York magazine.

He criticised the writer of the article and pointed out that in New York itself there were differences between the rich and poor groups in Harlem.