

# Unproductive to toss the blame around

N.S.T. 12 MAY 1978

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Owners of industries, managers, and workers should try and understand the role each had to play in the productivity of the nation, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Most people are inclined to think it is the other people who should avoid hampering productivity," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

He said they saw themselves as having no role or as having done everything necessary for productivity to be at a maximum.

"Thus we have owners of industries blaming management and workers for low productivity, management blaming the directors and the workers, workers blaming management and owners, and of course everyone blaming the Government and the Government blaming everyone.

**Mahathir:  
Let's  
understand  
our  
own role**

"In the process, productivity is usually further decreased."

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir, who is also Trade and Industry Minister, said this at the opening of a workshop on productivity in manufacturing industries organised by the Engineering Faculty of Universiti Malaya.

The three-day workshop is aimed at providing an overview of the factors contributing to the loss of productivity in the manufacturing sector.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir hoped the workshop

ing conditions.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir also said there was a common misunderstanding that the Government was free to carry out any recommendation.

The Government, he pointed out, had to take into consideration not only the provisions of the law, some of which could not be altered, but also the fact that every action it took had a reaction.

Papers on engineering, and human and economic planning will be presented at the workshop by a selection of contributors from Malaysian universities, Government agencies and the private sector.

Foreign experts attending the workshop include Prof. D.R. Towill from the University of Wales, Prof. Gilbert Jessup, director in the Employment Department in London, and Dr. W.R. Millager, head of the factory establishment and management section in the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

would succeed in exposing the different sides of the picture to create better understanding of the role everyone should play to improve productivity.

He suggested that seminars on productivity should also involve workers' representatives as well as those from industries and universities.

This was because discussions and conclusions would come to nothing if there was failure on the part of workers to appreciate and understand the "whys and wherefores" of these technical and possible philosophical exercises.

## Poor design

"We see for example how productivity problems are tackled exclusively through technological improvements only to be negated by the failure of worker cooperation," he said.

On the other hand, willing workers had failed to increase productivity because of poor machine design or work-