

Dissatisfaction among all races. .

The good sign in being fair to all

been asked to provide for the basic needs and facilities for them.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also Trade and Industry Minister, also urged Indians to invest more in the manufacturing sector, moving away from their traditional field of trade and real estate.

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The recent elections have vindicated the National Front policy to give a just and fair-minded treatment to the needs and aspirations of every racial group in the country, Deputy Premier Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the solid majority obtained by the Front in Parliament would strengthen the hand of the Government in carrying out policies "that may be opposed by one group or another."

"Nothing is worse than having to depend on one group only. It will force us into being one-sided and consequently unstable," he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was opening the two-day 26th general assembly of the MIC here. He spoke in response to a welcoming address by MIC President Tan Sri V. Manickavasagam, who highlighted some of the major grievances of the Indian community.

"Each shall be deprived of his wants and needs to a degree that brings about a sense of being equally deprived and dissatisfied," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the existence of the racialist opposition parties bore testimony to the dissatisfaction of all the communities.

flame feelings by playing up the sense of deprivation to the exclusion of the needs and aspirations of other groups.

"They are either narrow-minded or they do not have the interest of this multi-racial country at heart," he added.

He called on all citizens to value their citizenship and to dem-

The Deputy Premier emphasised that the New Economic Policy gave equal emphasis to the interests of every race and not just bumiputras. "There was no need for the wealthy to sacrifice their rights and properties, because distribution of wealth would be based on economic growth, he said.

"But a sense of deprivation will still be created because those who previously had unlimited access to wealth and opportunities will now have to share the access to them.

"There is no way out if social restructuring is to be done at all," said Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir.

Turning specifically to the problems and grievances of the Indian community, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said: "The more apparent the understanding and acceptance of the New Eco-

The Deputy Premier said it was important to understand the problems that a multi-racial society must face in order to avoid misunderstanding certain government attitudes.

It was also important to appreciate why apparently simple requests by the various parties in the National Front had not been attended to "with the promptness that they usually deserve."

"Each race is fully convinced that what it demands is not only legitimate and fair but actually allows for the legitimate and fair interests of the other races," he said.

"Unfortunately, however, what each race regards as legitimate and fair invariably fails to coincide with the definitions for the same by the other races," he added.

He pointed out that attempts to satisfy fully the needs and objectives of each group would only increase disparities.

The Government, he said, was always faced with the paradox which was that in order to satisfy everyone "we must actually dissatisfy everyone."

Mahathir on policy that spells justice

He described this as "a good sign."

"The moment we find that one race is totally satisfied we can rest assured that the Government is being unfair and is giving more for one than for the others," he added.

Malaysia, said the Deputy Premier, had been able to minimise its massive and complex racial problems because "both the Malaysians as a whole and the Government have been generally perceptive and fair-minded."

He then hit out at those who tried to in-

onstrate their love for the nation.

Malaysia had been accused of treating non-bumiputras badly, so much so that many Malaysians were said to want to emigrate elsewhere, he added.

However, he said, there were also many people who wanted to become Malaysian citizens and who would immigrate here if they were allowed.

Good citizens should not denigrate their own country in magazine articles or to foreign visitors, he added.

conomic Policy by the MIC and the Indian community, the easier it is for their requests to be met."

He called on the MIC to clarify to its members and the Indian community in general the nature and implications of the NEP.

He added that the Government would not neglect its responsibilities especially to the poor.

A revolving fund of \$10 million had been set up to help estate workers build their own houses, and estate owners had