

Ungrateful Malays: Dr M hits out

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PORT KLANG, Sun.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today hit out at some Malays for being ungrateful to the Government and Umno after enjoying the benefits of the New Economic Policy.

Far from being grate-

ful, they not only dissociated themselves from the party's struggle, but even co-operated with foreigners to destroy the economy of the country, he said.

Speaking at the opening of the Port Klang Umno branch meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister dwelt at length on

the responsibilities of Malays in making a success of the New Economic Policy.

He said the Malays owed their comparatively better position in the economic life of the country to Umno's struggle.

This was because they had reaped those bene-

fits by virtue of being bumiputras under the New Economic Policy spearheaded by Umno.

He said: "I am sure many have benefitted from the New Economic Policy in terms of business, employment and other opportunities unheard of under the British."

"What is most unfortunate is that some Malays, once they have the opportunities they want, like jobs, they forget those who have helped them."

"They are even prepared to be directed by others to do this and that, although their action may be detrimental to other Malays."

Too late

Apparently referring to the involvement of the

International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) in the MAS-AEU dispute, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the AEU members should not be influenced by foreigners "who do not love the country and are out to destroy our economy."

"We should not bow to their (the foreigners') wishes, what more to allow them to destroy our country," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he believed that foreigners were able to interfere in the dispute because there had been a lack of awareness on the part of the union leaders.

The union leaders regretted too late when they realised that the foreigners would no longer meet their request to assist them in solving their problems.

But at the beginning, when the foreigners came to their assistance, they had been easily influenced, forgetting that the foreigners were not the ones who formulated the New Economic Policy which provided the Malays opportunities in the country.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said if such an attitude persisted, Umno would not remain in power for long. However, he was confident that most Malays in the country were responsible people, aware of their duty to their fellowmen who still lagged behind.

"If they don't forget the struggle of Umno, the party would not only be further strengthened but the nation would progress."

He said the Government, in implementing the New Economic Policy, was more concerned with the creation of jobs than the creation of bumiputra capitalists.

It was very keen to create employment for the increasing number of unemployed youths because they could otherwise fall prey to undesirable activities like drug abuse and trafficking.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir later laid the foundation stone for the Port Klang Umno branch building costing \$500,000.

He also presented certificates of appreciation to 46 people who had donated to the building fund. So far, \$40,000 has been raised.