

Critics have been proven wrong: Dr. M

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BAGAN DATOH, Sun. — The New Economic Policy has acted as "fertiliser" for Malaysia's economy, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said here today.

The Deputy Prime Minister said this had been clearly proven by developments since the

policy was formulated in 1970.

He said: "There were people who said Malaysia would not progress and her economy would be retarded as a result of the policy. There were people who said there would be no investment in Malaysia.

"But we can see now what is really happen-

ing. As Minister of Trade and Industry, I have met people who are keen to invest in Malaysia. And the amount invested in the country has increased to millions of dollars."

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir was speaking at the opening of the Bagan Datoh Umno delegates meeting here.

He also spoke of critics who, when Malaya achieved independence in 1957, said the country would be ruined.

"They felt that power would be in the hands of the Malays who would then use it to wrest from the others their wealth," he said.

"They said the country would be ruined in a short time but they have been proven wrong...the country became more prosperous and peaceful.

He said the country also managed to develop her economy, which had since been expanding to benefit more and more people.

He conceded that there was some dissatisfaction but said that this was normal