

# 'A share for everyone in nation's rich resources'

NST 29 OCT 1981

IPOH, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged the people to work harder to increase the country's productivity by fully exploiting its vast wealth.

While the country's rich resources were for everyone, he said, the Government had to ensure that this wealth was divided fairly among all.

Speaking at a grand welcome from about 20,000 people at the airport here, the Prime Minister said they should be thankful for the country's strong growth despite a world economic recession.

"That is why we have been able to present a generous budget," he said.

Although there were many predictions of a

By ZAINAH ANWAR

tough budget that would burden the people with increased taxes, "we not only did not increase taxes, we cut them down".

"We are able to achieve this because of the country's stability and because of people who are hard working and productive."

He said the wealth that the country had now would not bring any good to the people if "we do not work to exploit it".

He reiterated that the Government had no other intention but to work hard to give the people what rightly belonged to them.

Touched by the grand welcome from the huge multi-racial crowd, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he hoped the solidarity and support shown today would prevail.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Hasmah, arrived this afternoon for his first official visit to Perak to a traditional greeting of bunga manggar, kumpang beat, lion dance and Indian classical music.

Later, addressing a State dinner in his honour, Dr Mahathir said the country's rapid progress since independence was due to its population being overwhelmingly moderate.

This, he said, had ensured continual election of a moderate government concerned with the welfare of all communities.

He noted that Malaysians are more prosperous and enjoy a standard of living that is higher than many other developing countries which had achieved their independence earlier.