

Dr M: It's the bridge of opportunity

NSI 21 NOV 1981

PENANG, Fri. — The eight-mile long bridge that will link Penang island to the main land, will offer greater opportunities for the people in Penang to improve their standard of living, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the bridge, the third longest in the world, would help speed up the State's progress and development.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir who arrived here for a two-day of-

ficial visit this morning, said Penang had already achieved satisfactory development in tourism and industry.

The high population density in the State would provide ample labour force for further development.

The Prime Minister said the Government would like to see the people enjoy a higher standard of living and had allocated considerable funds towards these objectives.

However, he added, the people must also be

determined to work hard to ensure that the various objectives were achieved.

He acknowledged the various problems faced by the people in Penang but the Prime Minister reminded them not to be emotional in trying to find solutions.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the State Government should use whatever allocation given by the Federal Government in overcoming the various problems in Penang.

He was proud of the solidarity of the multi-racial community in the State and hoped that this solidarity would be strengthened further.

Prayers

Earlier, the Prime Minister and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah were given a grand welcome at the Bayan Lepas airport here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is making his first official visit here since becoming Prime Minister, was greeted by Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu and his wife and other State dignitaries.

The Prime Minister later proceeded to the Yang di-Pertua Negri Datuk Dr Awang Hassan's residence where he was awarded the Darjah Utama Pangkuan Negri (DUPN), the State's highest award.

Later, he performed Friday prayers at the Masjid Negri here.