

MAHATHIR: RESPECT OTHERS' FEELINGS

STAR 2 1 NOV 1981

PENANG, Fri. — All races in Malaysia should always consider one another's interest and feelings, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"If we strive to bear this in mind, our actions will always be moderate and this will strengthen unity," the Prime Minister said.

He was speaking to about 10,000 people who welcomed him at the airport here.

He said that he hoped the unity shown by the gathering today would be a lasting feature.

"If we strengthen our unity I believe all our problems will be solved," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said a lot would be achieved if the people were less emotional and strove to make full use of resources and allocations.

He said there was no substitute for hard work. "If all of us were to work at it, I'm sure Malaysia will become a fully developed country," he added.

In a lighter vein the Prime Minister said Pulau Pinang might soon have to leave behind its "Pulau" for the island would be joined by bridge to the mainland and the two would no longer be separated.

The Government recently announced the tender award for the construction of the bridge to a Korean firm.

Dr Mahathir said he was proud of the rapid development in Penang, especially in the fields of industry and tourism, which has made it a leading State in Malaysia.

He said the Government could make allocations for development projects but the ultimate result would depend on the people who would have to work hard to achieve the objectives set out in the development programmes.

Earlier, at the airport, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and his entourage received a rousing welcome from a huge crowd waving thousands of colourful banners and flags.

On arrival, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was met by the Chief Minister, Dr Lim Chong Eu, and the State Secretary, Datuk Syed Zainal Abiddin bin S.A.M. Jamallulail.

Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah was presented with a bouquet by four-year-old Anis Dhuha, daughter of

State Assemblyman Encik Ahmad Radhi Pachee.

As he walked down the line of dignitaries, he was welcomed by a lion dance troupe and a Indian musical band.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was then introduced to the Speaker of the State Assembly Datuk Hassan Noh, Penang High Court Judge Datuk Gunn Chit Tuan, State Assemblymen and members of the diplomatic missions.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's entourage included Deputy Minister of Information Dr Ling Liong Sik and Deputy Ministers in the Prime Minister's Department Dr Goh Cheng Teik, both are MPs from Penang.

At noon, the Prime Minister joined Muslims for Friday prayers at the State Mosque here.