

A policy that puts us way, way ahead...

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Malaysia's progress is unique among nations which achieved independence at about the same time, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

This is due to our system of government, which takes into consideration all the races that make-up the nation, he said.

The Prime Minister was opening the Malaysian Chinese Convention organised by the Federal Territory MCA. The theme of the seminar is "Towards Better Future."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said there were several countries where independence had brought deterioration, and which were now in a worse condition than they were under colonial rule.

"When we achieved independence 24 years ago, the people were told not to expect great changes in the new administration, and even though there were extremely difficult situations, the Government managed to run the country well," he said.

political leaders died when a bomb wrecked the headquarters of the Islamic Republican Party (IRP), the largest and most influential party legally functioning in the country.

Among the dead pulled from the rubble were Iran's Chief Justice, Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, second only to revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in the power he wielded.

Four Cabinet Ministers, six Deputy Ministers and 20 members of the Majlis (Parliament) were also among the 74 people killed in the explosion.

It was the most serious of a series of bomb attacks and assassinations following the ousting earlier the same month of President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr.

The authorities have countered with a crack-down on leftist dissidents and in particular the mili-

tant Mujahedin whose leader Massoud Rajavi fled to exile in France with Mr Bani-Sadr.

At least 600 people have been executed in the past two months as the Government set out to crush opposition.

Teheran Radio said today that another 58 "active members and officials" of the Mujahedin, and two other leftist groups, the Peykar and the Fedayeen, had been arrested in Malayer, Western Iran and in Tabas, to the east.

The radio said yesterday that 206 members of the Mujahedin and other opposition groups had been arrested in various parts of the country.

In another report today the radio said gunmen on motor-cycles had killed a revolutionary guard in Zanjan, 300 km (180 miles north-west of Teheran).

It said one of the attackers was captured. — Reuter.