

Everyone NST 17 AUG 1981 must have good work ethics: PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** tonight spoke of the need for every Malaysian — whether a top-notch executive or an unskilled worker in the Government or private sector — to have good work ethics.

The Prime Minister, speaking at the annual dinner of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia, said:

"We have nearly all the ingredients for an economic take-off.

"However we lack one essential ingredient — good work ethics."

He added: "We do not work hard enough or honestly enough. We are not dedicated enough.

"Far too many of us work only for the money we get — or actually work less than what we are paid for. This is why we have not actually achieved economic take-off."

Clearly if Malaysia is to reach the stage of economic take-off everyone will have to quickly develop good work ethics, he stressed.

Pride

"Everyone has to work hard and honestly. *not* only for the money, but for pride in one's achievement and the achievement of one one's own country, Malaysia.

"You will find that in the end everyone will reap the harvest.

"The top men will earn more and live better, and even the labourer or worker will have better income and a better standard of life.

"This is a fact of life. It has already happened here in Malaysia for the few who work hard and honestly.

"What I am asking is for everyone to get benefits through their own efforts."

Punctuality at work, the Prime Minister said, did not mean leaving the place of work immediately at the end of a normal working day.

"They should try to finish as much of their work as they can each day. If necessary, they should stay back. In this way Malaysians will become more productive.

"A highly productive Malaysian nation will naturally be more prosperous — an a prosperous Malaysia will mean a better life for everyone, including the workers."

The Prime Minister said the sacrifice that hard work demanded was really a good investment for the very person who made the sacrifice.

"He is not slaving for anyone but himself, whether he is an entrepreneur or labourer.

"Yet by so doing he is helping to make Malaysia a great country and a respected one," he added.