

# Govt to take lead in industries drive

# Dr M: No room for laggards

NSI 28 FEB 1981

**THERE** will be no room for laggards who refuse to accept the dynamic nature of the industrialisation policy of which the Government will play a leading role in setting up heavy industries in the next 10 years to create massive job opportunities, Datuk Seri **D r M a h a t h i r**

By **BALAN MOSES: Jitra, Fri.**

**Mohamad** said last night.

The Acting Prime Minister added that such an ambitious industrial policy needed the full co-operation of the people, who should be prepared to shoulder the much heavier burden placed upon them in future.

"The people cannot allow a situation where foreign

labour has to be imported for the expressed purpose of running our industries. Such a move, if practised, will deny our very purpose of expanding industries in the country," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was speaking at a dialogue session with MCA members at the Chung Hwa Primary School here.

He said the Government's investment was necessary as the private sector would

63  
find it difficult to raise the capital for participation in heavy industries.

The move was a natural step in the process of industrialisation in any developing nation, he added.

He said: "We cannot be satisfied with the level of industrialisation achieved so far, but should strive to make the nation a leading industrial force as we have the right investment and political climate."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir added that the Government was aware that not everyone could participate in business ventures and thus industrialisation was a natural answer to the persistent need for jobs.

## Shares

"A good example of our dynamic industrial strategy is the setting up of the cement factory in Langkawi at a cost of \$430 million with the Government being the senior partner in the project.

"The \$1,000 million steel factory planned for Trengganu and the \$2,300 million liquid gas plant in Bintulu are other examples of the emphasis placed on exploiting our natural resources for the development of the country," he said.

Earlier, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said massive industrialisation was being employed by the Government to expand the economic cake, thus giving a share of the nation's wealth to all communities.

"We have shown through the New Economic Policy that no community has been de-

nied the right to prosper as the Government has been fair in providing the economic impetus to all.

"However, the bumiputra being the poorest community has to be specially helped. Thus the recent sale of shares under the unit trust fund is a positive move towards bumiputra participation in the economy."

He added that the unit trust fund would help bumiputras to achieve 30 per cent equity participation without drawing on the Government's reserves only.

On the demonstration by farmers in Alor Star, he said they had chosen the wrong way to air their grievances.

He said the time-proven concept of negotiation was the Malaysian answer to problems as it would ultimately leave little discontent among the parties involved.

"National Front's component parties have always solved their problems amicably through negotiations," he said.