

# Dr M LASHES OUT AT GOVERNMENT CRITICS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today slammed critics of Government policies and dubbed them as "the rubbish of society."

"These critics of Government policies who are the rubbish of society - only serve to destroy the fate of the people. They are obstacles to development."

"Although they keep up with their criticisms against the Government, they are never shy to try to gain whatever benefits that arise from these policies," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was speaking at the opening of the two-day seminar on the implementation of development projects of the Rubber Industry Smallholders Development Authority (Risda) for its smallholders and officers.

He added that it was important for the people to be aware of the existence of these groups, as their efforts prevent society from gaining the full benefits of Governments policies.

"When the Government implemented the metric system, they condemned it on the grounds that the metric system would only allow the Chinese to cheat the Muslims.

"They forget that the metric system is also widely used in Muslim

countries including Saudi Arabia," he said.

He said another example where the group had spread "ill feelings" among the races was by claiming that the Government had purposely planned the influx of Vietnamese refugees with the aim of reducing the per-

centage of Malays in the country.

He added that even the recent move by the Government to implement a standard time zone did not escape the critical view of the group and they had said it was one way to confuse Muslims.

"When the taxes on cameras were reduced to improve the economy of the country, they said in their cynical fashion "cameras cannot be eaten. If it was padi then it would be okay."

"These are the same people who had in the past, questioned the func-

tional value of roads in kampungs, saying they were not useful since they were not edible items. Yet they ride their Hondas along these kampung roads," he said.

He warned the people to keep away from this "rubbish of society" especially since these groups "increase their activities thinking elections are round the corner and election periods are the best times to spread mushrooms."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir stressed the importance of the willingness of those in the rural sector, especially smallholders, to work hard to improve their living standards.

He pointed out that it was wrong for the people to continually turn to the Government whenever any Government aid fails to produce the desired results.

"Whatever actions or aids that the Government gives would be wasted if we are not willing to practise effective measures to see that the actions and aids produce good results."

"Discipline yourselves and resist the temptation to be lazy," he said.

He called on officers and other community developers to act as agents of change at grass-root levels to spread the formula of "hardwork".

The Prime Minister advised rubber smallholders to work on other productive occupations once they have finished the necessary chores like tapping.

"Malaysians have many opportunities to improve their economic status and living standard. These are based on the willingness to work hard, and to use whatever we have positively. Once this is done, it will not be difficult for each person to better himself," he said.

He hoped that Smallholders Development centres throughout the country would help bring changes to the rural sectors.

"I hope to see the economic status of rural areas improve with various agricultural activities, and become comparable with those agriculture activities of world standards within a short time," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also stressed the importance of both the physical and spiritual aspects of development. He admitted that Malaysia practises those development aspects of both the East and the West that benefit the country without conflicting with the religious values of the country.

He added that a balanced view of both physical and spiritual aspects was necessary for progress.