

# 'Opposition can claim no credit'

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KUCHING, Wed. — It is a fallacy to believe that the Government changes its stand or adopts worthwhile policies only at the urging of the Opposition, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the Opposition could not claim any credit for the formulation of new policies or changes to existing ones.

"Their demands through confrontation with the Government are an exercise in futility," he said here last night.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional, which represented the majority of the people from all races, believed in solving problems through consultation.

He said it was through consultation with its components that the party which had been in power since Merdeka had formulated its policies or amended existing ones to suit the multi-racial nation.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a Barisan gathering at the Dewan Pembangunan Tun Abdul Razak here. It was his first visit to the State since becoming Prime Minister.

Among those present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Chief Minister Datuk Amar Haji Taib Mahmud and Sarawak State and Federal Ministers.

Earlier, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was given a rousing welcome when he and his entourage arrived at the airport from Sabah yesterday afternoon.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said all the na-

tional policies implemented had been the result of close consultation among Barisan component parties.

"We believe in consultation and co-operation for the progress and harmony of our multi-racial society," he reiterated.

The Prime Minister said in the case of the 3Rs, unlike the DAP which chose to solve the problem through conflict and confrontation, the Chinese-based parties in the Barisan consulted their partners.

He said these parties such as the MCA and the SUPP fought not through confrontation but through consultation.

"Through consultation, the Government understood more of the problems faced by Chinese schools and made the necessary changes to suit them," he said.

Datuk Seri Mahathir said parties which were chauvinistic in their attitude and tended to project the interests of one race only over the interests of the other races, could not survive

in this country.

He said as Malaysian society is made up of minor races and no single race is dominant, it is dangerous for parties with racialistic policies to be allowed to gain wider influence.

They would only encourage conflict which would lead to the destruction of the nation.

"We are a small nation which can only be strong through unity and therefore must reject any influence that tends to break up our solidarity," he said.