

# Merdeka and the new generation

# Much remains to be done: PM

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon.** — While Malaysia has achieved comparatively remarkable progress in the past quarter century of independence, much remains to be done to ensure a truly united, stable and prosperous nation for the generations of Malaysians to come.

This was the main thrust of Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad's message tonight over Radio and Television Malaysia to mark the country's 25th anniversary as a sovereign nation tomorrow.

The Prime Minister said progressive Malaysia, blessed with the good fortune of having a majority of rational and moderate people, has confounded the prophets of doom and those bent on seeing the destruction of this multi-racial nation.

"Each time we held an election, all sorts of adverse predictions were made by those who did not wish to see our success. Each time, however, we showed them

that, although we have many problems, we have the capacity to manage our own affairs well," said Dr. Mahathir.

Speaking on Malaysia's achievements, the greatest of which is political stability, as well as the problems and challenges ahead, the Prime Minister made the following points.

● WE need to impress upon the generation which grew up or were born after Merdeka (which forms some 60 per cent of the population) that they must not take independence for granted.

● GIVEN the wealth of experience in living and working together, Malaysians must use it to strengthen the foundation for a happy and prosperous nation.

● THE Look-East policy is adopted because there is something worth learning from the East and this move is aimed at strengthening national resilience.

In the past 25 years, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said, Malaysians could not be proud of all that had taken place in their country.

In 1969 there were the race riots. The war against the communist terrorists has yet to be ended. Also, the solidarity of the various communities has yet to

reach the desired level.

"All these serve as reminders — so that we do not forget the realities, are not negligent and do not lose interest in the effort to make our nation a success," he added.

The Prime Minister cautioned the people against certain quarters within and without the country who feel uneasy with Malaysia's achievements and wish to see its collapse.

They harped on the multi-racial facet which they claimed would bring about the nation's destruction.