

ONE spirit ONE voice

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The leader of Umno told the representatives of Umno today that the party must fully bear in mind that the first 25 years of Merdeka are just the twinkling of an eye in the long history of a nation.

NST 11 SEP 1982

"Tomorrow, and in the tomorrows to come, we will continue to bear the burden of responsibility entrusted to us to safeguard the honour of our people, religion and country."

must not be complacent. Remember that our struggle to give meat to the independence, to restore the honour and dignity of our people and religion, has only just begun.

"We have to intensify our effort manifold to bring our re-

ral disasters which hit many other countries, we cannot but be affected by the consequences of world recession.

Resilience

"Advanced countries are still practising the strategy of confrontation behind the diplomacy of co-operation. Much time

In a hard-hitting and wide-ranging presidential speech that took all of 90 minutes to deliver, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir:

- Slammed those "in sheep's clothing" who wanted Umno to "waste time fighting shadows" by exploiting the Freemason bogey.

- Warned Pas leaders who are leading Muslims astray.

- Expounded the meaning and significance of Malaysia's Look East policy and our foreign policy.

- Hit out at the opportunists within the party.

- Emphasised the need for business management expertise in public enterprises and the importance of economics.

He stressed: "We cannot afford to be weak or negligent."

Umno's is a struggle without end; "each moment is a beginning and each beginning needs an indomitable spirit and careful but firm steps. To ensure effectiveness, our struggle must have one spirit, one voice, one action.

"After all these years of struggle, we must realise that with the passing of time and the changing world, we too have changed. We must see in perspective our independence, our triumphs and achievements, as well

as our weaknesses and failures; we must be self-critical, honest and mature.

"Although we have been independent for 25 years, we

ligion, our people and our country to a much stronger position, to ensure the well-being and happiness of generations to come."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir stressed that a nation's happiness is founded on unity, justice, harmony, prosperity, well-being and stability. Honour and dignity, he said, do not depend on just one factor.

All these factors are inter-related and cannot be easily achieved, needing firm and courageous action, sacrifice, and intellectual as well as physical effort.

"Today as a member of the world community, we face many challenges. Within our country, the communist threat still exists, elements out to bring disunity to the people and destruction to the nation are active, inflation has not gone down, the prices of raw materials have yet to recover and stabilise, the nation's export has declined. We must exercise thrift and plan the nation's expenditure more carefully.

"On the international scene, economic recession continues. As a small developing nation, although we have rich natural resources and are not prone to the natu-

is wasted in talking and making resolutions that get nowhere. Mankind is still far from peace and comfort in life.

"In the Islamic world, bloodshed and squabbling still divide Muslims. We are made fun of and treated with contempt. The big powers are still at loggerheads, still exploiting weak nations in their proxy warfare, still violating our honour and dignity.

"At a time when mankind is so advanced in knowledge, primitive values still prevail in international politics, so that humanity loses its meaning."

In a situation so fraught with challenges, he said "all we have is the option of increasing our resilience, ability and capacity in all fields so that we cannot be deceived and treated wantonly by others.

"We must correct our stand and attitude; we must lay out our strategy for action; and we must redeem fully the honour and dignity of our people, religion and country."