

# Mahathir slams critics of Look East policy

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By NAZAR ABDUL

ALUR SETAR, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today slammed critics of the Look East policy for their pessimism and lack of confidence.

He said some people felt that government efforts to develop the country based on Japanese and Korean know-how were mere dreams.

"Such dreams are not impossible if the people are prepared to work hard and explore the various fields of development," he said when launching the multi-purpose co-operative of the State Youth Council at Datuk Syed Omar Stadium here.

The Prime Minister noted that some undeveloped countries had become advanced and made achievements in various fields through such efforts.

Certain Malay groups who doubted the bumiputra capability to catch up with the achievements of non-bumiputras, particularly the Chinese, were also criticised.

"There should not be such doubts as the possibility of achieving what other races have attained is always there if bumiputras themselves are prepared to strive hard," he said.

Realising this fact, he said, the Government had introduced the Look

East policy to study the secrets of success of the Japanese and Koreans for local applications.

He said the principles of discipline and industry should be instilled in the people as they were suitable and necessary for the country's development.

The people should not be lazy, demand higher pay and threaten employers — attitudes currently found in the West, he said.

"We want the people to adopt positive attitudes which will lead the country towards greater success and achievement, to achieve what the Japanese and Koreans have achieved," he added.

The Prime Minister said he was confident the NEP was the best way to restructure society and narrow the existing gaps between the various races.

He hoped every citizen would understand the policy which was aimed at raising the living standard of the backward groups without arresting the progress of those already advanced.

Efforts through the NEP, he said, would ensure that every citizen would be equal and able to enjoy the country's wealth and prosperity fairly.

He urged youths to prepare themselves in taking up job opportunities created by the Government through the implementation of various development projects.

"Youths should never be choosy in applying for jobs as there are plenty of opportunities available if they know how to fit in," he said.

He said they should always improve themselves by pursuing further knowledge and experience to ensure a better chance in the employment market.