

It's the duty of each and everyone

NST 19 MAR 1983

By
**SHARIFAH
ROZITA**

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri.
— All Malaysians have a duty to work together and bring dignity and honour to the nation, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Everybody, from the youngest to the oldest, must make this nation strong, not only materially but also spiritually.

Reception

"If we can do that, then no longer will we be looked down upon by others," he told a 5,000-strong crowd which had gathered at Subang Airport late this afternoon to welcome him home.

Also present were Datuk Musa Hitam and other Cabinet Ministers, Government officials, foreign dignitaries and their wives.

Looking a little tired from the journey home from Europe but moved by the reception, the Prime Minister said: "We cannot sit back and demand respect.

"We must know what it takes to gain respect and dignity and honour — if not, all we will gain are nice words and rhetoric."

The huge reception had been organised by Umno Selangor as, in the words of the organising committee chairman Encik Onn Ismail, an expression of the nation's awareness of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's "dynamic and innovative leadership which has placed Malaysia among the world's hon-
oured."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir reminded the people that he alone could not bring dignity to the country.

"I cannot do it by myself. Everybody must play his part, by practising hard work and dedication."

.Dedication

He said Malaysians should love their country and make life better for all.

"I go out of the country but I never fail to be glad and happy to be home — because despite everything, home is still the place to be and everyone too should feel the same way," he said.

He commented that although tomorrow he would be telling civil servants at the "leadership by example" campaign launching ceremony to instil pride and dedication in and to their work, this message was not only meant for them.

"It is also meant for everybody."

The plane bringing the Prime Minister home was only due to land at 6pm but the crowd had already filled the portion of the tarmac marked out for the ceremony as early as 4.30pm.

Rows of more than 20 buses had been parked in a makeshift parking lot

which had brought part of the crowd.

When he began his brief speech, the Prime Minister quipped: "I really did not expect such a welcoming ceremony — especially when I am returning from a holiday, not a State visit!"

On his achievements at the Non-Aligned Summit, he said the work had not been done by him alone.

"A lot of the credit goes to our Foreign Minister," he said.

At the summit which he attended before going to London and Vienna for a private visit, two of the main suggestions made in his speech were accepted by the non-aligned countries.

They were his call to make the Antarctica the "common heritage for mankind" and the establishment of a regime or regulations to ensure the region was used for the mutual benefit of all nations.

He had also called for the setting up of a producers' association as an effective means of ensuring fairer market prices for their goods.