

Why Govt wants Malaysia Inc. — by Mahathir

PETALING JAYA, Thurs. — Malaysia cannot afford to have a confrontationist attitude existing between the private and public sectors as efficiency and productivity of the nation will be affected, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

To ensure that both sectors worked closely, the Government had introduced the Malaysia Incorporated policy, he said.

"I wish to clarify that Malaysia Incorporated means the Government and the private sector are not on opposing sides but partners in efforts to make the nation more efficient and competitive."

"With this concept, the Government should be more positive in helping businessmen and entrepreneurs.

Inaugurating the clock tower at the junction of the Federal Highway and the road leading to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said this cooperation would result in the nation being rich and stable to the benefit of everyone.

"As a corporation, the ability of Malaysia to compete with other nations in business and industry will be that much higher.

"On the other hand, if the Government and the private sector are always confronting each other, the efficiency and productivity of the nation will not be improved and we will not be in a position to compete with other nations successfully," he said.

The taxes collected were not for paying Government servants but for

building and maintaining facilities needed by the people, including businessmen, he said.

However, he stressed, it was impossible for the Government to finance or build everything. The people still had a role to play.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said there was no way any Government in the world could maintain control if the people continued to commit crimes, pollute the environment and create chaos.

The biggest role the people could play was not to pollute, while those who could afford it should make efforts to safeguard the present situation and beautify their homes and residential areas.

Millionaires and companies should help the Government beautify the environment.

"In this way, the Government and the people, through the companies, would be one body or corporation that functions for the good of the nation, at least in taking care of the environment," he said.

The Government had recently focused its attention on cleaning and beautifying the nation.

While many of the public places were being maintained by the Government, it had now invited the private sector to take over the responsibility of beautifying certain areas.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir gave an assurance that the Government would help any individual, foundation or the private sector in their programmes to beautify the country or plans which would benefit the people.