

Ali Baba syndrome must go

1987 MAR 28

By JERRY FRANCIS

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged all races to give their co-operation for the country's economic development just as they had done in politics under the Barisan Nasional.

"If in politics we can achieve close co-operation, I do not see why we cannot do the same in economics," the Prime Minister said.

He added that only through such co-operation can the objectives of the New Economic Policy, which had been accepted by the people, become a reality.

However, co-operation did not mean an "Ali-Baba" system where Ali was merely a sleeping partner.

The Prime Minister said what he hoped to see was both "Ali and Baba" to work together for profits and knowledge, creating equality and respect for each other.

Expertise

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who made a visit here, was speaking at the opening of the \$240,000 Umno House which is jointly shared by the Hilir Perak, Teluk Intan and Bagan Datoh divisions.

He was accompanied on his visit by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah.

They were given a

TELUK INTAN,
Sun.

rousing welcome when they arrived by a RMAF helicopter at the town padang.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir expressed regret that despite various aid available to Bumiputeras their economic achievement was still low.

It was true that a number of major holdings like Guthrie and Sime Darby were in their hands but they were held through the Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB).

What was needed was for more Bumiputeras to be involved on their own in all types of businesses and industries, he said.

In order to achieve this, he said, they should be willing to accept the fact that they did not have the expertise and be willing to learn and improve themselves.

The Prime Minister also said Umno had a lot of enemies who used the

sentiments of hate and jealousy to gain support.

They even referred to Umno buildings to claim that the party had become materialistic.

Unlike Umno, he said, some young leaders from the party's "political enemies" could not wait for their old leaders to step down.

"In Umno, when an old leader knows that age is catching up, he will give way to the young leaders," the Prime Minister said.

"The young leaders among our political enemies are impatient and will topple their old leaders. They will also brand their old leaders, who they once looked upon with respect, as un-Islamic.

"These people give themselves titles like ulama just to differentiate the old and new leaders.

"They said everything should be referred to them as they are never wrong. The mistakes that the old leaders committed are for not consulting them."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said if one studied the list of names of the ulamas, one would be confused. Among them were unproductive writers and lawyers.

He said there were many ulamas in society, who were highly knowledgeable in religious affairs, and were humble people and who would not call themselves ulamas, but the people regarded

them as ulamas.

"So what we have now are some people who come out and call themselves ulamas, which is not right," he said.

The Prime Minister advised Umno members that having their own party building did not mean they could now afford to relax.

The building was a place for them to hold discussions to continue their struggles for the people.

Earlier, Menteri Besar Ramli Ngah Talib said the Umno State liaison committee would give \$40,000 to the building funds of each division in the State.

On the Kenering by-election, he expressed confidence that the people could continue to support the concept of a clean, efficient and trustworthy Government as espoused by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.