

Betrayers of trust beware!

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Government will not hesitate to take action either through the process of law or administration against managing executives in the public or private sector who have dishonoured the trust placed in them.

Issuing the warning here today, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad described such individuals as having betrayed the nation.

"These people who do not fear God are mistaken if

they think they can get away. Sooner or later, their malpractices will be detected and by that time, it will be too late for them to get protection from certain people close to them," he said when opening the new \$21 million Federal Land and Development Authority (Felda) headquarters at Jalan Gurney.

"They not only ruin the institution entrusted to them but also taint the name of their own community. Moreover, innocent people have to bear the ill-effects of their malpractices."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it did not matter whether the executives were managing a statutory body, a Government corporation or

a private firm, but what was important was trustworthiness.

"Without this, all sorts of malpractices will occur."

He called on management executives to be hardworking as such a quality would greatly benefit their organisation.

Assistance

"It is better for those who do not possess these qualities to leave the management line. If they don't, they will one day be punished; as they will surely fail in their job."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, in commending Felda as a successful organisation in land resettlement, noted that there existed a group of settlers who were over-dependent on Felda and often ready to blame the organisa-

A lesson

If Malays persisted in their attitude of "taking things easy", (they and) Malaysians on the whole would lose their dignity and thus become weak.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said although the country was the primary producer of rubber, tin, timber, palm oil and crude oil, this would not alone guarantee its future and peace.

The effects of the current economic slowdown should serve as a lesson to Malaysians on the importance of increasing productivity and strengthening resilience in all areas.

"The Government on its own, without the support of the people, cannot do much even with the best of policies."

tion and the Government for their own weaknesses.

"They should realise that the Government has spent a great deal of money to settle them; and the arrangement for returns must be considered compulsory and appropriate."

The attitude that the Government was a "welfare body" to gain free services and loans, would spoil the thinking of the people and weaken the Government:

In the end, it was those who had been receiving service and assistance from the Government who would suffer.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir urged such people to realise that there were others also in need of assistance.

He criticised certain groups of settlers who were "spoilt" and who only wanted to be managers on their own land and asked others to toil on it for them.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir remarked that the Malays had lost the pioneer spirit which their forefathers possessed.

"Our forefathers opened up land armed with nothing but an axe, parang and cangkul. They were the ones who left us the durian, coconut and other trees from which we only know how to pick the fruits."

The people should be grateful that the situation was different now and that they were not faced with difficulties once experienced by their forefathers.

That is why the Government had made several changes to some of the existing policies so that productivity in the whole country could be increased through a united movement.

The Prime Minister said it was imperative that everyone worked hard in a disciplined and dedicated manner so that Malaysians would be a happy, harmonious and dignified race.

Later, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir presented *Semai Bakti* medals to 18 Felda staff and gold medals to six settlers.

Also present at the ceremony were former Cabinet Ministers, Tan Sri Abdul Kadir Yusoff, Tan Sri Fatimah Hashim, Datuk Shariff Ahmad and Datuk Asri Haji Muda.