

# Don't look for short term gains: Mahathir

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat.** - Malaysians have been advised not to be overly materialistic and thus measure things by their short term benefits.

The advice comes from the Prime Minister, who in his New Year message to the nation over RTM, stressed that the people should also think of the long term benefits for society.

"Benefits to the people will eventually bring profits and goodness to us. Those who

need assistance will also be able to enjoy the profits with the others having to reduce their benefits. "If greed becomes the basis of life, it will corrupt society and bring disaster. Therefore, when we carry out our duties we should not think too much of the profits but should also think of the honour of a good and sincere service," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the political situation in the country was stable throughout 1983 and this enabled the economy to develop steadily.

Although the country experienced the consequences of worldwide economic recession, with the austerity drive and realistic and practical fiscal policies it had managed to face it effectively and successfully compared to other developing and developed countries.

Business and employment opportunities exist and the living standard of the people in general was not affected.

As a nation that continues to change and implement programmes for development, the country always faces problems, claims and challenges.

One of the challenges which attracted much attention in 1983 was the Constitution Amendments issue.

"Thank God that the misunderstanding and uncertainty that emerged from the issue have been settled in accordance with our custom and tradition."

"This victory strengthens the Government's faith that with the contribution, support and unity of the people, there will not be any problems that cannot be solved. We will continue to nurture a Parliamentary democratic system and constitutional monarchy," he said.

He said there was no concept that can be regarded as 100 Per cent good as there were bad points and weaknesses in any concept. The people must discard those found unsuitable and accept only those which are suitable.

"In the policies and concepts which have been set by the Government, there are not many bad points. Therefore, we should not waste time debating the pros and cons of the policies and concepts and thus not implement them."

On security, he said that the country had been able to effectively check the advance of the communists threat at the Malaysia-Thailand border and had managed

to put a stop to the attempts by their supporters.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that the stability, prosperity and the atmosphere of Peace and harmony that we enjoy now is everlasting. The Government will continue with its efforts to eradicate poverty."

The Government is determined that those who are diligent and willing to work are ensured of an appropriate and fitting livelihood," he said.

He urged the people to fulfil their responsibilities with a strong and determination to create a situation where every citizen, no matter where they are, is able to live happily and thus strengthen Malaysia.