

PM: HELP YOURSELF

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 By I. RAJESWARY

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Malaysians should be "actively and totally involved" in development and nation-building instead of always expecting the Government to do it for them, **Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad** said today.

ability of output in order to increase wealth.
 "In this respect, manpower and industriousness are the primary sources of wealth," he said.
 Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said there were three main sources of wealth:

- Savings — to be used for investment either in Bank Islam, Bank Simpanan Nasional, Amanah Saham Nasional (ASN) or to buy company shares;
- Circulation of money — especially in investments and reinvestments, and
- Productivity — contributing towards the nation's wealth.

ing for this and that."
 "We are in a new era. The strength of the economy depends solely on increasing productivity and the capacity to compete with other countries," he added.

AT A GLANCE

THESE are the highlights of the Prime Minister's speech when he tabled the Mid-Term Review of the Fourth Malaysia Plan:

- Promote more active and total participation of people in nation-building and development;
- Increase the wealth of the nation to support and sustain a higher standard of living and be prudent with expenditure;
- Cultivate saving habit and set aside money for investment;
- increase productivity and services to a level higher than the increase in wages;

The Prime Minister, who tabled the Mid-Term Review of the Fourth Malaysia Plan in the Dewan Rakyat, said he was departing from tradition this year by not focussing on the distribution of increased allocations but on the efforts as well as injecting economic

which must be undertaken in growth nation-building.

His speech, which was delivered soon after question time to a full House and telecast by RTM, took about an hour.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's level of development was much higher than that of other developing countries and even slightly higher than that of some developed countries. But this did not mean that the country or individuals could spend beyond their means.

This leaves the Government with two choices now. Either lower the standard of living or increase the nation's wealth so that we can afford to maintain the standard of living.

The Government decided to increase the nation which will require a change in attitude and approaches.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said since independence, Malaysia had recorded an average economic growth of between six and eight per cent per year.

Statistically, the difference in Federal Government revenue, which was \$2.4 billion in 1970, had risen to \$18.4 billion last year.

A large portion of this growth was due to production of commodities as well as electronic products for export.

In fact, he said, 50 per cent of Gross National Product (GNP) was from exports which was different from countries such as the United States or Japan where exports only form a small part of the GNP.

He said Malaysia was too dependent on its exports to increase national wealth.

He added that though Malaysia was rich in natural resources, "Possession of natural resources such as tin or fertile land or seas full of fish, will not make a nation or its people rich."

"The people must be clever enough to tap these sources to improve the quality of life."

The Prime Minister also took a swipe at those Ministers and Members of Parliament who sought more money for their constituencies or projects without giving any thought as to where the money was going to get to.

"These people always condemn the Government for its excessive debts but will not think twice when asking for more money for whatever purpose."

He said the Government could not avoid borrowing for development projects but the rate of borrowing would depend on the nation's wealth.

On the economic recession, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said all those countries which depended on their export sector, including Malaysia, were severely affected.

To reduce the effects of the recession, the Government increased public sector spending for the first two years of the Fourth Malaysia Plan, which enabled Malaysia to record an economic growth of 6.2 per cent a rate to be proud of.

However, this "expansionary spending" of the Government could not continue for long, especially since its foreign loans were \$13 billion.

Another effect of the recession was that although 428,000 jobs were created, the labour force increased by 471,000, resulting in an unemployment rate which increased from 5.7 per cent in 1980 to six per cent last year.

Even then, he stressed, the unemployment rate was under control.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that even though there were signs of recovery of the recession, "we cannot stay idle and start demanding more money for their constituencies or projects without giving any thought as to where the money was going to get to."

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● Economic recession resulted in deficit of \$19.4 billion in Malaysia's external account. Purchasing power also dropped.

● Recession resulted in higher unemployment rate and declining prices of primary commodities;

● Buy several foreign-owned industries to ensure that Malaysians benefit from the nation's wealth; and

● Sixth university to train future managers, especially, among bumiputras, because of shortage of efficient managers.

● Role of public sector to be reduced in next two years and that of the private sector to be increased. Strengthen public and private sector cooperation;

● Adopt good values and work ethics and learn from experiences of other countries;

● Consolidate agriculture land, especially padi land, to promote group farming and regroup neighbouring kampungs into small townships;

● Increase population to 70 million to support the mass consumption industry;

● Strengthen industrial sector through import substitution and promoting heavy industries. An industrial master plan is being drafted. Only in-house unions allowed in these industries.