

-90pc of poor benefit from NEP: Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Government has done more for its rakyat than any other developing country and about 90 per cent of those who were poor are now enjoying the benefits of the New Economic Policy, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mo hamad said today.

The remaining 10 per cent are reaping the benefits their own choice, either because of the influence of certain political parties or their refusal to heed the Government's advice to work hard.

Dr Mahathir told a Press conference that the NEP would have been successfully implemented had it not been for opposition and also moves to divide the people.

In this respect, the Government has done more than enough for the people compared with efforts of Governments of other developing countries.

"I dare to challenge any-

one to point out any Government of developing countries that has done as much in its efforts to improve the livelihood of the people."

He added that accusations that only a certain group was benefitting from these Government efforts were based on feelings of inferiority.

Those who made such accusations only wanted all the millionaires in the country to come from one race and, by making such accusations, their intention was to cause hatred among the races and "fish" in such a situation.

Academicians

He said there had also been accusations that the NEP had only been successful in making certain quarters millionaires.

However, these critics did not want to admit what they saw. For example, it was because of the NEP that tertiary education opportunities were available and many had become professionals or officials and execu-

tives in both public and private sectors.

Dr Mahathir also hit out at certain academicians who had criticised Government efforts to eradicate poverty.

"These are the people who place themselves on a pedestal and make analysis in air-conditioned offices."

"But when we have universities located in away-from-urban areas for example, humans of this kind will raise objections and they do not want to be awarded to Japan-serve among the poor."

He said insinuations that racial elements were taken into consideration in the allocation of funds for rural and urban areas were baseless.

The allocations were for these projects were less in urban areas as either too high or, if low, poor could fend for themselves with business opportunities available in the project, there towns and cities whilst would either be more attention had to be focussed on the rural or delay in completion.

areas as "we need fishing. There were buildings, industry and padi plant-ing for food security." were either not completed or the cost of restructuring of equity had edalated above the ownership in the corpor-tender price, he said.

ate sector was also part of the Government's poverty eradication programmes.

Restructuring had been carried out systematically, thus the creation of a unit trust in which the poorest could have a share in the wealth of the country.

"We now have Amanah Saham Nasional, which is the single largest unit in the world, and this is an achievement in our poverty eradication programme."

On the Look East policy, he said it was still not fully understood. He reiterated that had certain contracts been awarded to Japanese and South Korean firms, it would go to contractors from other countries as local contractors did not have the ability to develop the projects.

The local tender price for these projects were either too high or, if low, poor could fend for themselves with business opportunities available in the project, there towns and cities whilst would either be more attention had to be focussed on the rural or delay in completion.

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