

Look East *policy will

NST 6 May 1984

By KAMRULIDRIS

continue: Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat.— Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today pledged a continued commitment to the **Look East policy** and warned critics against swaying Bumiputeras away from it.

"The Government will not abolish the Look East policy. On the contrary, the Government feels the **policy is** pertinent and has already brought in the **desired** results," he said.

"Do not attempt to provoke Bumiputeras into resisting this policy," he said when **declaring** open the Dayabumi Complex, the **35-storey** blue-ribbon

construction project dominating the city skyline.

The Prime Minister said satisfactory transfers of technology had taken place and **dismissed** charges by local contractors that Japanese and Korean firms **renege**d on contract promises involving training.

"Malaysia will certainly get a lot of **benefits** from the **Look East** policy. Since the policy was launched many of our trainees have gone to Japan and South Korea and into firms in both countries.

"What cannot be denied is that before the policy.

building and supply contracts had also gone to other countries, but without any scheme or organised and large-scale training programmes by those who had gained from those contracts."

Problems relating to contract terms or standards of **service** from foreign parties should be reported to supervisory authorities and settled through consultation, Dr Mahathir said.

He advised a more open approach in solving disputes - "Let us not be come too **sensitive**... where we could even be wrong.

"I have found too many

mistakes because we do not come forward for fear of causing offence," he said.

Dr Mahathir further endorsed the policy by citing examples of local firms which, after participating in **Look East**, were now able to produce technology intensive specialised building material.

He also credited the policy for extensive on site training and for passing on **advanced project**

● SEE ALSO PAGE 4

management techniques to local managers, technicians, engineers and craftsmen.

The Prime Minister defended **contract** awards to Japanese and Korean firms in spite of their higher offer bids by **underscoring** their "past performance", work credentials and other factors. He was also replying to criticism which he **said had epitomised** the "defeat of the Look East policy" in the Dayabumi building.

He related instances of enormous cost overruns in conventionally **contracted projects** and praised the **now-common** turnkey packages as "effective" and yielding quicker returns by finishing on time.