

Mahathir on Malays who reject their identity

NST 1 - SEP 1984

KUALA LUMPUR — **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** last night expressed concern that young Malays were being influenced into rejecting nationalism and their Malay identity.

The Prime Minister, in an apparent reference to Pas, said a group exploiting Islam as a political instrument degraded the victory of independence, preaching that the pride of being Malay contradicted Islamic principles.

"The efforts of an irresponsible few, who are arrogant and vain, have succeeded not only to destroy feelings of gratitude towards independence but replaced those feelings with the belief that the spirit of national pride, of Malay-ness itself, is not to be upheld.

"Today we find those who refuse to admit themselves as Malays, as if it is sinful to be Malay," he told more than 400 ve-

terans of the Anti-Islamic Union Movement at a dinner in Parliament House.

"A feeling of shame has been planted in their hearts, because our race is supposedly contradictory to the teachings of hypocrisy.

Islam. "They say that the NEP only profits a few Malays. What is ironic is that they themselves are beneficiaries of the NEP, but willing to use Islam in ways that are not halal.

"This has happened and Will continue to happen if the pride of national identity is destroyed," he said.

He said that Malay nationalists were branded as heretics who have abandoned religion for some other pursuit.

Dr Mahathir berating pro-Pas Malays for their ingratitude and lack of humility for the freedom from colonial domination from colonial occupation," said their criticism Government policies favouring Malays showed then we have failed.

"After they have been helped, obtained favour from the efforts carried out by us, they curse and revile the people who helped them, he said.

"We must continue — at home, in the community — to make those who are immodest, arrogant, those who are not grateful of the life they have inherited aware of what would have been. And (make them aware of) how dangerous it would be if they continue to remain heedless of this fortune and happiness," he said.