

Mahathir: There must be some sacrifice

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. —
Prime Minister Datuk Seri
Dr Mahathir Mohamad se-
verely criticised Malay-
sians who wanted high liv-

ing standards comparable to developed countries without having to sacrifice anything in return.

He said that there was a degree of naivete among "some quite intelligent Malaysians" who wanted the best of everything as if Malaysia could afford what developed countries had.

"We have people demanding that we have the best schools, the best hospitals, the best pay schemes, pensions and environment; that we preserve our forests, historical buildings, etc.

"In addition, we should lower taxes, pay no tolls, work fewer hours, throw out foreign investors and everything that may raise money for the nation and Government," Dr Mahathir said towards the close of his

speech at the opening of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and In-

dustry of Malaysia.

He added, however, that there was no way one could have the "goodies" and not pay for them.

"But even if we want less than that, we will have to pay, although the payment may not be direct.

"If we want to preserve Malaysia in its natural state with tropical forests and animals and cute attap houses, then we must be prepared to live without the amenities that we now take for granted," he said.

But what was most detestable, Dr Mahathir said, was when city dwellers earning fat salaries shed tears over the way the countryside had been spoilt and the bucolic life of the peasant disturbed.

"In the same breath, they would lament rural poverty. After they shed those croc-

odile tears, they would retreat to the airconditioned comfort of their city offices," he said.

Poverty, he added, could only be defeated if "sufficient people make money legitimately and pay their taxes so that the Government can launch schemes to upgrade the productivity of the poor."

This, he said, was the sole solution while dole would not eradicate poverty but like drugs, only reduce the people to dependents.