

# Govt will be fair as far as possible, Dr M pledges

THE federal government wants to be fair, as far as is possible, in its treatment of the various communities in the country and of state governments, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said he is aware that there is dissatisfaction among the various communities and state governments over the treatment they received from the federal government.

Addressing about 10,000 people at the Bayan Lepas International Airport on arrival from Kuala Lumpur for a two-day official visit to

Penang, he said the various communities and state governments felt they were not getting fair treatment from the federal government.

"There are communities which think they are not getting what is theirs by right and there are states which feel that they are being discriminated against in the provision of federal allocations," he said.

The government is in fact striving to be fair to all communities and the various state governments but it cannot satisfy everyone or every state.

Feelings of dissatisfaction will always be there

and each community and state will continue to feel that they are not being given proper attention, he said.

"If such thinking is present in all communities and all states then we feel that our policy is right," the Prime Minister said.

This only shows that the government's policy is fair in that they did not get everything they asked for, he said.

The Prime Minister said Penang has developed much since the time of the British who gave priority to the development of the state.

Since independence the government had also ensured that Penang's pro-

gress proceeded uninterrupted together with the development of other states.

The government had given much attention to the state so much so that some groups felt that too much had been spent on the state.

This has caused envy and dissatisfaction among certain quarters although what was given to the state was only its fair share of allocations, he said.

Among the major federal allocations for Penang is the financing of the bridge linking the island with Seberang Perai.