

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Malays recognised the rights of the other races as citizens of Malaysia.

"While we regard the Malay States as the original land of the Malays, we accept the rights of the other races as citizens of this country.

"Although there are those who migrate, we do not deny that the majority who stay are really loyal to the country. We recognise them as citizens," the Umno president said when opening the party's 36th general assembly here.

He appealed to Malaysians of all races — Malays, bumiputras, Chinese, Indians, Kadazans, Ibans and others — to love the country and learn to live with its shortcomings.

Dr Mahathir said although it might rain gold in another country, it was still better to stay in one's own country despite the shortcomings.

"Malaysia is not heaven but we do not have knives and spears raining down on us.

"In a country with so many communities, we cannot please everyone in everything we do.

"But Malaysia is our country. No matter how bad it might seem, the people must love it. The existence of a race and country depends on this love," he said.

In his two-hour presidential address, Dr Mahathir spoke on the main issues facing the country and he asked the people to be patient and understanding.

But he warned that Umno and the Government would not compromise or give in on any issue which could adversely affect the country. He touched on:

- MONEY politics and the effect it would have on Umno if left unchecked;
- THE MCA crisis, its after-effects and the Barisan

Nasional and Umno's involvement;

- WAGE demands by the civil servants and the effects on the economy;

- THE system of parliamentary democracy and the Constitutional monarchy and how the position of the royalty was being used by certain people to help them in business;

- THE assimilation of Islamic values and the fears of non-Muslims;

- NATIONALISM and what the future holds for Malays; and

- THE need for all Malaysians to love and defend the country at all costs.

He said increasing affluence among Umno members and its growing membership had resulted in unhealthy trends such

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DR M: WE ACCEPT NON-MALAYS

'The majority of them are loyal to the country'

~~Unions~~ rapped for pay demands

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as money politics.

The disease, he said, had spread to older members who had to resort to similar tactics for fear of losing their positions.

He criticised MCA leaders who in the early stages of their party crisis had frequently asked for intervention but later accused "outsiders" of interfering in their internal matters.

Dr Mahathir also criticised unionists who advocated strike and threatened to withdraw support for the Government if their salary demands for civil servants were not met.

He said the Government had a responsibility not only to civil servants but also to farmers, la-

bourers, fishermen and others who were just as badly affected by the recession.

He said the Government had already effected increases in salaries of up to 12 per cent in June, and would make no further compromise.

Dr Mahathir also said the Government would blacklist people undermining the system of Constitutional monarchy by using members of the royalty for their personal interests.

If such practices did not stop, the people would start questioning the system, he warned.

On the assimilation of Islamic values, Dr Mahathir said the country could not afford to be too rigid because of the multi-racial makeup.