

# Mahathir rejects call to close Majuikan

5 2 1 MAR 1985

KUANTAN, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has rejected suggestions that the Malaysian Fisheries Development Authority (Majuikan) be closed down.

He said Majuikan had made some mistakes "but others have done so too."

"We should find out what the mistakes are. We cannot solve problems by dissolving Majuikan.

"If we want to do so, we might as well 'dissolve' the fishermen because without them there will be no poverty," he said today when launching a fishermen's development zone for Kuala Pahang, about 54km from here.

While admitting that government efforts to eradicate poverty among fishermen had yet to achieve success, Dr Mahathir stressed that the fishermen themselves must change.

He said: "You should be willing to change your own fate and improve your livelihood; if not you will forever be poor ... and every effort by Majuikan to help you will fail."

Dr Mahathir hit out at certain people, whom he described as "smart alecks," who blame the Government for fishermen being poor.

He regretted that these people, in writ-

ing about the conditions of fishermen, had created anti-government feelings by their allegations of government neglect.

He said their allegations were baseless, and explained that the Government had created various agencies, implemented many programmes and made allocations to improve the livelihood of fishermen.

The Prime Minister, who is on a two-day visit to Pahang, said the "smart alecks" bemoaned the plight of the fishermen but did nothing concrete to help other than offering proposals, such as closing down Majuikan.

He told fishermen to find out why those in other countries were more successful, and whether they were poor because the country's marine resources were inadequate.

"If the marine resources are insufficient, then why are foreign fishermen operating in Malaysian waters?"

He said it was more important for fishermen to change their traditional methods of fishing, along government guidelines.

Dr Mahathir was granted an audience by the Sultan of Pahang at Istana Abu Bakar here before returning to Kuala Lumpur.