

Policies aim

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to share out wealth: PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The various policies on education and economy were formulated to ensure an equal distribution of the nation's wealth, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said the Government realised the absence of such equality would only lead to political, social and economic instability.

"It can also result in a chaotic and anarchic society, a situation which benefits no one," he said.

He was speaking at the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCIM) dinner.

The Prime Minister

By **SUDHEERAN CHANDRAN**

said that the pride Malaysians took in saying they belong to a prosperous country was meaningless if they did not really get a share of this wealth.

He said the Government, in formulating the various policies, wanted to be fair to everyone.

But, he added, this had made the Government unpopular with certain sectors.

"That is why we have political problems in the country," he added.

He assured the people that the Government would do its utmost to be fair to all communities.

Dr Mahathir said that

political problems should be solved through legal means. Otherwise, the stability of the country would be jeopardised.

He urged the people to really understand and support the Government in its efforts to make the country "grow from strength to strength".

Support

Dr Mahathir reminded them that the country was going through a period of economic slowdown.

"Never in the history of the world have the prices of various commodities gone down together."

This, he said, had left

Malaysia with no other alternative but to cut down on unnecessary expenditure.

"We have to live within our means, not beyond our means. We must also increase productivity so that we produce more for less."

He said the need to trim down operating costs was especially urgent as Malaysia now had to compete with other countries.

He said he had suggested that the price of palm oil be reduced from \$550 to \$250 per metric tonne for it to be competitive in the international market.

Dr Mahathir said one of the ways to overcome the present slowdown was to diversify into the manufacturing industry.