

WE WILL BE FAIR TO ALL, SAYS PM

5 12 DEC 1985

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said tonight that the Government will be fair to all to ensure political stability in the country.

The Prime Minister said that the Government had drawn up guidelines and specific policies to ensure that the country's wealth was enjoyed by all.

"If we sometimes seem unfair to you it is because we have to be fair to others," he said at a dinner given in his honour by the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had to give opportunities to others who lagged behind.

"If all the people understand this, I am sure that the future of the country

will be better and national development will run more smoothly," he added.

Dr Mahathir said wealth alone was meaningless if not accompanied by political stability.

The Government's objective, he said, had always been to provide stability in which trade could be carried out.

He advised the business community to cut cost, increase productivity and diversify to cope with the present economic situation.

Malaysia's products, he said, were very costly and could not compete in international markets if the Government did not give it protection.

He said that Malaysia had to cut the cost of production of palm oil if it wanted to compete with producers

such as Indonesia.

He also urged businessmen to take advantage of the many incentives provided by the Government.

"We have made available money to the private sector through the banks and also devised the Industrial Co-ordination Act to help the business community."

He also hoped that there would be greater co-operation between the Chinese Chambers of Commerce and the Malay Chambers of Commerce.

Dr Mahathir also paid tribute to Malaysian Chinese who, he said, were diligent and hard working and were in the forefront of the economic field.

He said that the Malaysian Chinese had an important role to play in increasing trade with China.