

Based on moderation, multi-racialism

PM: Let's build a new society

11 AUG 1986

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun.
— **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad**, today spoke of the need to build a new Malaysian society governed by moderation and the realities of a multi-racial country.

The new society must be disciplined, hardworking and have the willingness to put the development of the country before personal interests and desires.

There is need for a nationalistic spirit to lift the country to greater achievement and respectability.

Malaysia is fortunate as the people have been able to live in harmony despite being multi-racial.

Dr Mahathir was opening the Malaysian Association of Youth Clubs (MAYC) complex in Jalan Syed Putra and the association's 32nd annual meeting.

By NOR HAWA YUNUS

He said the result of the recent general election showed that by and large the people had rejected parties and leaders who were chauvinistic and championed the cause of a single community.

Although some of these leaders won in urban areas, their victories were not all encompassing as there were still others who preferred to see co-operation among the races and peace and security in the country.

Foreign support

The Government has tried to create such a society but its efforts have been attacked by those who wish to see the country in disarray.

"When we say we want to create a clean, efficient and trustworthy society, these people go out of their way to find evidence that we are otherwise ... they deliberately highlight a number of

things to project that we do not practise the slogan.

"Consequently, the people begin to lose confidence in the slogan to the extent that we are unable to achieve our objective."

He was sure those who had tried to discredit the Government would continue to do so and be supported by foreigners who appeared to want to see communal strife in the country.

Dr Mahathir urged the people to counter their efforts and continue to strive for racial harmony to ensure that the country would remain peaceful and prosperous.

Youth clubs, like the MAYC, have an important role to play in the development of the new society.

However, the youth movement lacks representation from some races. Action must be taken to ensure their participation.

Also present at the function were Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, the former presidents of MAYC, Tan Sri Mubin Sheppard, Tunku Abdulah Tunku Abdul Rahman and Syed Ahmad Idid.