

Mahathir on detractors of 'Look East' policy

Mahathir - Look East

By FARUSH KHAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today his Look East policy had failed to gain full support of the people because it was "undermined" by certain quarters.

The Prime Minister attributed the failure to critics who consider themselves intellectuals.

"For three years, we have not been able to convince the people of the good work ethics of the East which have helped a number of Eastern countries to progress," he said.

He also believed that criticisms from these

groups of people had partly contributed to the country's economic slowdown.

Their intention is only to erode the people's confidence in his leadership.

"I want to ask them what they have contributed besides writing working papers and making speeches to criticise Government policies," he said when launching the Cultural Month and a rally to mark Youth Day at the Stadium Jalan Raja Muda here.

The critics maintain that Malaysia should only emulate the examples of the "whites" be-

cause they are superior than the "coloured" people though this is not true.

However, the Government is still convinced that to progress Malaysia should emulate the work ethics of the East and not those of the West.

"Therefore the Government will not change its present policies despite calls by certain quarters who call themselves intellectuals," he said.

Propaganda

Western society had reached a stage where they tend to relax although they know it is detrimental to their countries. They can afford to do so because they can depend on past achievements.

"However in this country we cannot afford to relax. We need to work hard and maintain our discipline in work and life to ensure our continuous progress."

In an obvious reference to the opposition parties, Dr Mahathir hit out at those who still wanted to claim they have the people's support even after having been defeated in the recent general election.

"Barisan Nasional's

victory in the election clearly shows that its policies are acceptable to the people."

The Government will not entertain those who are only interested in making criticisms and accusations all the time.

The Government believes in doing work for the benefit of the people; not just talk.

Any policy can be successful, although it may not be exceptionally so, as long as it is implemented with great determination and confidence.

Even the best of policies will fail if the Government and the people are not committed.

Everyone must place the country's well-being above self-interests although this calls for sacrifice.

Certain quarters have tried to stir racial sentiments during the recent election campaign but their propaganda had failed to attract the people. The election results proved that only parties which are prepared to cooperate with other races will emerge victors. Therefore the people rejected parties which were narrow-minded.

The Government will continue to promote all activities which reflect a multi-racial society.

The people should be proud that they have been able to live in peace and prosperity in a multi-racial country like Malaysia, he added.