

Govt to stand firm: Dr M

By AHIRUDIN ATTAN

THE Government will continue with its Look East Policy and other current policies, and in the process sweep aside any critics who try to undermine its efforts, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"The Government is facing difficulties in implementing some of its policies due to too much negative criticism, but we shall not give in. We shall carry on with the current policies.

"We shall also have to sweep aside the critics," he added in launching Cultural Month at a youth rally in Kuala Lumpur yesterday attended by some 10,000 youths from various movements.

He said the critics, who call themselves intellectuals, have been going round under-

Look east policy
mining the Government's policies not only by criticising them but also through malicious talk.

"This is the reason why the Government has not been successful in getting certain policies off the ground. It is because of them that we have not really succeeded in inculcating the values of the East in the people after trying for three years.

"They think they know better, they think the whites and the West are still superior," he added.

"Let me ask you (the critics). What is your role in nation-building? What are your contributions to the development of this country besides your working papers and seminars?"

Dr Mahathir said the cri-

tics know only how to talk. "Talk is cheap."

He said the Government looks East not because of the colour of the skin. "We are trying to emulate their work ethics, the values that have made them the industrious race and developed nations they are."

He said Malaysia is not looking West because of its eroding cultures and values which are making their people lazier with each passing day. They even have to resort to protectionist measures to ensure that their economies stay above that of others, he added.

Earlier, the Prime Minister reminded youths to remember two characteristics of the country: that Malaysia is a multi-racial society and

BT 15 AUG 1986

that it is a developing country.

"If our youth fail to remind themselves of these, they will fail to take over as administrators of the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said youths must remember that the multi-facial nature of Malaysia is not necessarily a problem to the country. "If we can unite the various races and form a powerhouse, that will make nation building an easy task.

"There is no better place to foster cooperation than in youth movements. But there is still a noticeable absence of certain races in youth movements. This must be corrected," he added.

"If from our youth we can
Cont'd Back Page, Col. 5

Govt to stand firm: PM

FROM PAGE ONE

BT 15 AUG 1986
tolerate each other and transform ourselves into one united people, we can easily avoid tensions and misunderstandings and live in peace."

Dr Mahathir said during the elections there were certain parties which exploited racial issues but in the end it was the more moderate party that won the mandate of the people.

He urged youths to work harder from now. "They must remind themselves that Malaysia is a developing country and thus has a long way to become a developed nation.

"Our average income per capita is a mere one-fifth of that enjoyed by the developed countries. This means we will have to work four or five times harder to draw level."