

PM: GOVT POLICIES HINDERED BY CRITICS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — The Government will continue with its present policies and not change them just because several groups want a change, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said that for three years, the Government had failed to get the people to emulate the work ethics of the Look-East Policy because of these critics.

"These people are intellectuals but they possess a 'slave mentality' and have failed to contribute positively to the development of the nation," he added when launching the National Youth

Day and Cultural Month.

Dr Mahathir said that instead of making contributions, these people were eroding the people's confidence in the Government.

He said these critics were responsible for the failure of government policies and for slowing down development.

He reminded youths to reject the calls and suggestions by these critics.

"These people would rather follow the West just because the West is more developed than the East.

"But they don't want to accept the fact that hard work and per-

severance of the people in some countries in the East have helped these nations to become developed, too.

"We should follow their example in order to make Malaysia a developed nation. We cannot follow the workers in the West who have become lazy because their nations are already developed.

"And when the nations in the East are on par with them, they become worried and impose protectionist policies," he added.

Dr Mahathir urged youths to accept the fact that Malaysia had still not reached the level of development achieved by the de-

veloped countries.

He said that for the nation to become developed, everyone had to work four times harder. "We have to be more disciplined and more hardworking to achieve our objectives.

"Some nations in the East developed quickly because the citizens did not think just for themselves but for the nation. This is what we have to do," he added.

He also said youths should accept the fact that they were living in a multi-racial society.

"A country which has many races can have its own problems but it has its advantages, too, if

the leaders know how to mobilise the various talents of each race.

"That is why tolerance and co-operation is vital and this must prevail in the various youth movements.

"Presently, there is no full participation by the various races in the country's youth movements.

"If the youths can get together now, there will be less misunderstanding and tension in the future," added Dr Mahathir.

He said parties which used racial sentiments did not receive the support of the people in the election, proving that the people rejected their narrow ideologies.