

# Don't lag in duties, PM tells leaders

## Call to build resolute society

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today stressed the need for leaders and Government servants to discard any tendency for laxity and to help build a resolute society

He said the nation would weaken, the administration would be in shambles and the people would lose their confidence in the Government if leaders entrusted with the responsibility of governing the nation lagged in their duties.

The Government would "in all firmness" ensure that the laxity would not prevail among leaders, administrators and intellectuals, he stressed.

"For so long Malaysians are used to living in peace, free of any major crises or upheavals, that we tend to be forgetful of our obligations to the nation," he said when launching a National Day exhibition at the National Museum.

Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali, later made a tour of the exhibition. Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Anusir Junid, who is the organising chairman for the National Day celebrations, was also present.

The month-long exhibition on *A resolute society, a strong nation* — the theme for this year's National Day celebra-

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By ALI HAMDAN

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tions — among other things displays a gallows to project the nation's boldness in the war against drug menace.

The gallows, described by museum director-general Datuk Shahrum Yub as brand-new, is by courtesy of the Prisons Department.

Dr Mahathir said it was vital for the country to be strong and firm in all its endeavours in order to gain the respect of the world.

The Government policies and certain actions such as enforcing the laws against anti-nationals and dangerous criminals were only for the safety of the people.

### Love for nation

"The drastic measures are necessary for everyone in the country to feel safe. This does not imply that we are an arrogant and uncompromising people," he said.

"No one can deny the fact that we are known for our hospitality, warmth and good nature.

"What we need to change now is our attitude so that we are brave and firm in confronting the enemies who are out to create tension among the multi-racial people," he said.

This was why the theme for the 29th National Day was chosen.

Emphasising the importance of patriotism in nation-building, Dr Mahathir said all future policies and programmes would be launched on the basis of patriotism.

An ideal Government able to build a strong nation should be supported by leaders who were wise, educated, firm in their stand, sincere, and highly respected for their leadership and charisma.

He urged community leaders, intellectuals and Government officers involved in development programmes to ensure that the planning and implementation of their respective programmes and activities were born out of a strong sense of love for the nation.

The Prime Minister spoke of the duty of the leaders in the post-independence era to fulfil the aspirations of the people in the process of building the nation based on the policies already determined, to preserve independence and the prosperity of the country and democracy.

"The responsibility is too heavy to shoulder, especially if you are not prepared to face the challenges that are forthcoming or not willing to sacrifice," he said.