

# PM: Stop questioning fellow citizens' status

STAR 17 NOV 1986

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — All Malaysians enjoy equal rights and the people should stop questioning the status of their fellow citizens, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman said that with the ending of the recent "racial dispute" (over the Selangor MCA resolution), "there is no need for us to question the status of anybody."

"We know that Malaysian citizens of Chinese and Indian origin are not foreign

immigrants and they have equal rights enjoyed by other citizens.

"Historically, the Malays and other bumiputras are the natives of this country.

"This had been agreed to through consultation and as such the matter should not be brought up again," he said when opening the 33rd MCA annual general assembly at Wisma MCA here.

Later, speaking to reporters, Dr Mahathir said that disputes within the Barisan were "normal but the main

thing is whether we can settle problems or not."

"This latest episode showed very well that we can sit down and discuss things and make a resolution that is sensible and acceptable to the majority," he said.

He conceded that not everyone in Umno and the MCA would accept the solution but added: "The important thing is that it is acceptable to the majority and in our system it is the majority that counts."

Asked if the 46 Umno

MPs, who had brought up the matter with him, were unhappy with the solution, Dr Mahathir replied: "I don't think so. I think they are happy because if they are not they would have pursued whatever they wanted to do."

Asked what were the lessons to be learnt from the episode, Dr Mahathir replied: "I think (it is) not for me to learn any lesson because we have always decided that we will settle everything through discus-

sion and that was what we did.

"But for some people who are extreme, they have a lot to learn."

Asked if the Sedition Act would be amended to stop people from calling others *pendatang* (immigrants), he said it would be "impossible to do that because you will have somebody who is going to say *lidah kling, Melayu malas* and somebody who will say all kinds of things."

"We cannot pass a law on such things. The main thing

is that good sense must prevail... and we advise people not to say it.

"Laws don't solve anything. If you want to be nasty, you can always be nasty, including the Press," added the Prime Minister.

Earlier, in his speech, Dr Mahathir also called for a "cleaning out" process of the economy now so that when the economy recovered it would have stronger foundations.

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# PM: No easy way to make money

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"We must be careful when we place our trust in managers. We should not be so attracted by quick and high profits that we easily fall for the sweet talk of certain people.

"We have seen in this country how people were easily tricked because they wanted to get rich quick. Whenever anyone says they can make \$10 become \$100 without any effort, there are people who are prepared to hand over thousands of dollars.

"Similarly with the chit fund. Even though people have been cheated several times, there are others who are prepared to become customers of chit-funds.

"In reality, there is no easy way to make profits. Share transfers, increase in property values, listing on the Stock Exchange, share speculation and speculating in commodities cannot guarantee wealth if they are not based on trade, productivity and sale of goods at profitable prices," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that trust was crucial in business. "Many are facing problems now because of their abuse of trust when running their business.

"When the economy suddenly declined, all their plans were exposed and they are unable to escape from action.

"Their actions in converting our currency into foreign currency in the belief that the *ringgit* would fall and they could make easy profits are a fantasy.

"The Government will ensure that the value of the *ringgit* rises, not falls," he said.

He said that in the nation's efforts to help economic recovery, a new breed of managers who were professional and ethical was required.

"They should not be greedy and should not use the opportunities given to them and the trust placed in them to commit wrongdoings.

"Those with their own companies should not be involved with public companies dealing in the same business," he said.