

Go to it with confidence

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Malaysians were today urged to have confidence in their ability to develop the country into a nation they can be proud of.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the ingredients for a strong and established industrial nation were people with self-confidence, discipline and a readiness to work hard.

He regretted the attitude of certain people in the country who belittled Malaysia's development efforts.

"These people tell foreigners that Malaysia has grand pipe dreams believing that by doing so they will be respected by these people... in truth, foreigners sneer at people who deliberately run down their own countries," he said.

Opening the Taman Seri Keramat multi-purpose hall here, Dr Mahathir said the Government wanted to set up more industries in order to create job opportunities for the people and to provide avenues for them to upgrade their skills so that the country could manufacture goods for export.

"We must have confidence in our abilities. We have the know-how and expertise... we have pro-

By

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duced the national car Proton Saga."

He said when the idea of producing a national car was first mooted "many people laughed but today we find that those who had jeered at the idea are now taking the car here and there".

"The fact that more than 20 countries have expressed interest in buying the Proton Saga is an indication that Malaysian products are accepted by the world," he said.

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He was confident that with the people's support and dedication, the country would overcome the difficulties it now faced.

He said the depressed prices of various commodities should make the people more determined to work harder to develop the country.

"We can get angry at other people (for the depressed prices) but what is important is for us to renew our determination to begin again to develop the country by going into industrialisation."

In a 40-minute speech, which was interrupted several times by shouts of *Hidup Mahathir, Hidup Rakyat* and *Merdeka*, the Prime Minister said the Barisan Nasional served the people because it wanted Malaysia to be peaceful, prosperous, progressive and respected by the world.

He said some people had questioned what the Barisan leaders wanted for themselves in making all these sacrifices for the people without thought for their own needs.

A leader, he said, would be contented if the country was developed and would not be pleased with himself if the people lived in poverty.

"If such a situation was found here, the country's leaders would not know where to hide their faces when meeting leaders from other countries," he said.

Malaysia, he said, was fortunate to have people who were wise enough to elect a Government which, in their opinion, could serve the people.

The Prime Minister said the people were aware that the development started by the Barisan Nasional must be continued to ensure their well-being and future.

"Because of this I am confident that the people will not allow the country to be ruled by

narrow-thinking people who are guided by emotion and greed," he said.

An estimated 50,000 people from the various communities turned up to welcome the Prime Minister who was on a one-day official visit to Selangor.

Prayers

Dr Mahathir later met the Selangor Umno liaison committee at the Risda building in Jalan Ampang.

He then joined other Muslims in prayers at the Taman Tasik Tambahan Mosque in Ampang.

In the afternoon, Dr Mahathir held separate meetings with the State Barisan Nasional committee and committee members of Umno Selangor.