

# DR M: DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO GO ON

S-4 APR 1988

By MARIA SAMAD and  
NORAZIAN  
ABDUL RAHMAN

KUALA TERENGGANU, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Government will continue to implement development projects for the benefit of the people.

The Government like its predecessor, the Alliance, would not get tired or give up the effort to turn the country into a progressive and modern nation, he said.

He reiterated that the Government would look after the interests of all the communities and that no one race or community would be overlooked.

Dr Mahathir, who was laying the foundation for a low-cost housing project of the State Economic Development Corporation, about 6km from here, added that the project

was testimony of the Government's sincere effort to help the people regardless of their social background.

He said the Federal Government's planned to build 80,000 low-cost houses a year over the next three years because "we want the people to live comfortably."

He also said that the Government had not overlooked the rural poor and it was for this reason that the Government had built schools and clinics in the rural areas to improve their socio-economic standard.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and Datin Paduka Seri Dr Siti Hasmah were welcomed by thousands of people at the airport when they arrived for a three-day State visit.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, State Secretary Datuk Setia Wangsa Abdul Rajman

Nasir, State Executive Councillors and heads of government departments.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should appreciate what the Government was trying to do for them.

"The country has achieved tremendous progress and the people have managed to live in peace and harmony and this has enabled the Government to carry out development projects unhampered," he said.

"Let this goodwill and understanding prevail so that we can continue to prosper."

He added that while the Government was constantly finding ways to help the people, certain opposition parties were all out to criticise it.

"While we appeal for unity, they are working towards disunity. While the Government advocates goodwill, they teach their followers to fight

against the authorities.

"While we struggle for goodness, they fight for evil," he said.

He added that the Government had constructed schools and kindergartens to impart knowledge while the opposition built them to "sow the seeds of hatred."

Taking a shot at PAS, he said that despite professing to be an Islamic party, PAS was going against Islam.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had shown that it was capable of providing the people with a better life and future. When the opposition had been given a chance to rule the State, they could not offer any concrete development plans.

He said that the International Islamic University, the Islamic Bank and the Islamic Insurance *taf-fakul* were some of the projects the Government had undertaken to help

the Muslims.

Dr Mahathir reiterated that Umno in particular and the Barisan in general had always worked for unity among the Muslims and the various races in the country.

However, he was confident that the people would not be easily taken in by the opposition and that they would continue to give their support to the Barisan.

"Malaysia is a democratic country where the people are given the chance to vote the party they want to be in power. I am sure they will reject all forms of extremism," he said.

He added that the Government and opposition were free to conduct their campaigns to win support from the people so long they did not breach the country's law.