

# PM likens BN Govt to welfare organisation

151 1986

KUALA TERENGGANU, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described the Barisan National Government as a welfare organisation — but with a difference.

While it provides, it also endeavours to ensure that those who receive are able to grow and develop on their own.

It helps the people obtain better income from their vocations.

It is a welfare organisation because certain projects, like the fish landing port at Chendering in Terengganu, are provided at no cost to the users.

However, the success of such projects would be measured not only by the greater income derived but also by the extent to which the people were

By ZAINON AHMAD

motivated to improve and modernise their vocations.

"The people must be willing to modernise so as to gradually distance themselves from outdated traditional methods," he said at the opening of the Chendering Port.

## Experiment

The Prime Minister said the people must be willing to change and be willing to experiment with new methods. "Only then can we progress," he said.

The Government's function is to help the people increase their income so that they can enjoy higher standards of living. They can even become rich.

"But they must help

themselves first," he said.

He was addressing about 5,000 people, mostly fishermen, at the port which was completed in 1983.

Among those present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, National Fisheries Development Board chairman Datuk Abu Bakar Rautin Ibrahim and heads of government departments.

Dr Mahathir said it was claimed that fishermen were poor.

But, he added, it was not that there were no more fish in the seas but that fishermen still had the subsistence menta-

lity with regard to their vocation.

Fishermen must reorganise themselves so that only the young men equipped with proper facilities in larger boats need to venture out on the high seas while the rest involved themselves in related industries on land.

The Prime Minister said they could think of setting up ice factories, fish processing plants, becoming fish merchants and provide an efficient transport system to supply the catch to markets at home and abroad.

The Government could help the fishermen further but they must be willing to change and reorganise.

The Government had no other motive except to help the rakyat.

In its efforts to help the people the Government was guided by Islamic values, he said.

"If only there did not exist among us a group out to create chaos, the Government could be free to concentrate all its efforts to help the rakyat. As it is, we have to spend time to counter the influence of this group," he said.

Earlier, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said the port was built at a cost of \$25 million and went into operation in 1983.

The ceremony today was merely to mark "our gratitude to God for making it possible for us to enjoy this bounty."