

NEGATIVE THINKING IS OUT, SAYS (P) MAHATHIR .

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Certain individuals and groups are attempting to distort the thinking and principles of the people and preventing them from contributing towards national development, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said these individuals and groups promoted unhealthy and negative thinking that hindered the Government's development efforts.

Such thinking, he added, could be seen in five aspects:

— a rigid attitude and stand towards new ideas and being quick to reject new proposals and suggestions;

— a narrow and parochial thinking with short-term vision, giving priority only to quick returns;

— stressing personal or group interests without considering the adverse effects upon the organisation, society and the country in general;

Accept changes

— frequently exploiting, oppressing and belittling efforts by other people as well as their weaknesses, and

— a willingness to accept sub-standard performance without putting in much effort.

Speaking at the Administrative and Diplomatic Service Association annual dinner here, Dr Mahathir said the people must reject and despise such negative thinking, starting with a "rehabilitation of thought".

"They must increase their knowledge of the details of their work, supervise it efficiently and ensure that

objectives are met at the stipulated time and cost."

Dr Mahathir said that after 30 years of independence, the country had gone through many economic, social and political changes which were implemented according to the people's needs and adaptability, while taking into account the effects and consequences on the country.

He said to progress, an organisation or a country must be able to act and accept changes.

"If we remain silent and static, the country will flounder and our produce will become obsolete.

"That is why we must be adaptable and seize opportunities arising from the changes. We need new development approaches and strategies to face international economic competition and challenges," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this was why the country could not depend on traditional sources of revenue like rubber, oil palm, timber, tin and petroleum.

He said new sources of revenue must be sought to meet the needs of the future which were now geared towards industrialisation, trade and service.

"We must market globally and that is why we must have strategic and fearless positive thinking to face challenges.

"I am confident that our leaders and managers have this capability because what is important is the spirit and perseverance to seek and try potentially new ideas."

Dr Mahathir said changes need not necessarily be "revolutionary or sudden" as existing ideas that have been proven should be maintained