

# PM: People decide policies

# A two-way relationship

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By KALIMULLAH HASSAN

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The public and the Government must have a two-way relationship — the Government explaining its policies and actions and the people responding with feedback, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.**

The Prime Minister said the people's opinions would ensure that the Government plans development policies in line with their aspirations.

"In a democracy, the Government-people relationship is not one way. It must be a two-way relationship," he said at the launching of the Information and Broadcasting Week at Angkasapuri.

Dr Mahathir said: "In a democracy, the Government is the people because the people choose their representatives in Government. The people decide the policies the Government should undertake.

"Therefore, a two-way Government-people relationship is a basic necessity to ensure success of democratic rule.

"I believe that if there is sincere and close people-Government and people-people co-operation,

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our country will be more peaceful, prosperous and respected," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the electronic media had a big responsibility not only in developing society but also in ensuring the people receive useful information.

"Television and radio should provide up-to-date information to the people and avoid airing programmes which go against national policies or which can cause moral decay.

"They must promote love and loyalty for the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the electronic media must also watch out for attempts to pollute Malaysian culture and values through subtle propaganda which could come in the form of music, songs, films or other materials.

"The country can thwart physical intrusions with our armed forces. But it is harder to fight attempts to take over our minds and culture.

"We have to fight this kind of intrusion by strengthening and spreading our culture through

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the electronic media," he said.

Dr Mahathir said by strengthening the Malaysian community's culture and values, the media would also be promoting unity.

"Unity is very important and it should be given priority in all programmes, be they documentaries, entertainment programmes or others."

"This is a very heavy responsibility which must be borne by artistes and the people. If they do not know and love their own culture, then it would be easy for foreign cultures to get a foothold here."

Dr Mahathir also advised RTM to be more commercialised in order to finance its projects and purchase new equipment.

"Steps should also be taken to reduce expenditure and use existing facilities more efficiently?"

Thousands of people attended the colourful ceremony which began with a march-past by various Government media representatives.

Dr Mahathir, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali and other dignitaries then visited the mam auditorium at Angkasapuri.