

Towards a strong,  
efficient civil service

# GIVE YOUR BEST, SAYS PM

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The civil service must continue to strive to attain greater heights and give its best to help the country achieve further progress, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.**

Without a good administration, it would be impossible for a country to advance despite its wealth and knowledge, said the Prime Minister.

He said it was important for civil servants to continue serving with dedication, patriotism and a sense of pride.

"I am confident Malaysia will grow to join the ranks of other newly-industrialised countries if the civil service continues to provide excellent service," he said when addressing senior Federal and State officers at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Dr Mahathir said Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan were examples of newly-industrialised countries whose rapid progress was spurred by an efficient and strong civil service.

He said these countries, whose per capita income exceeded that of some developed countries, have achieved remarkable progress through an efficient administration.

Dr Mahathir said on the other hand, countries which were rich but whose administration was weak and inefficient, were still behind economically.

The Prime Minister also spoke of the importance of serving "for the sense of satisfaction" and not for the salary that came with the job.

He said every senior officer should fully use his potential for greater achievements.

"Although we may not gain directly from helping our country grow, the real reward is the sense of satisfaction in having contribut-

ed to national development.

"We should feel proud of this," he added.

Dr Mahathir said that understanding national policies was imperative in striving to achieve excellence in the civil service.

He said civil servants must understand why the Government formulated these policies, particularly Malaysia Incorporated and Privatisation.

He added these policies were implemented to lessen the financial burden of the Government and at the same time, to benefit the people.

Dr Mahathir said that national development should not solely be the Government's responsibility.

He also said Government support for the private sector would benefit the former through the collection of taxes which could be used to help finance civil service costs and developmental projects.

## Colonial rule

The Prime Minister also said no one group should blame the other in the efforts to develop the country.

For example, he said, civil servants should not blame the politicians and trade unions should not blame management, for any weaknesses in efforts to attain progress.

Dr Mahathir said instead, everyone should strive to give his best and ask what he has contributed to national development.

He also said the level of development in the country in its 30 years of independence was higher than that during the period of colonial rule.

This meant that "we have succeeded in having a public administration system under a democratic system of rule which is now faced with challenges".

Dr Mahathir said unlike the days of colonial rule, the present democratic system has now to take into account the reactions and views of the people.

The Prime Minister later held a closed-door dialogue with the officials.