

# Stability must be nurtured, says Mahathir

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MORE GREETINGS  
— Back Page

STABILITY in the country was not brought about by chance; it had to be nurtured. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government's swift and decisive actions also helped bring about stability in the country.

In his Hari Raya message to the nation over Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) last night, he said as a result of the stability foreign investors are convinced of the benefits of investing in Malaysia.

The Prime Minister said: "This country has benefited from the economic improvement which began in late 1987 till now. Patience and an austerity campaign have now produced results as we gradually and confidently tackled the economic slowdown."

The "climate of fear" which might have existed in the country has now been replaced by a growing confidence of more positive developments. The apprehension of the past had been eliminated except among those who wish to create extremism and racial conflict.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the country's economic recovery is greatly dependent on demand for its primary commodities but pointed out that not all countries have succeeded in improving the performance of their economies. Many are still facing problems.

The Prime Minister said prices of the country's primary commodity prices have improved. For the first time in a decade or more, rubber planters are enjoying better prices. As a result, rubber-based industries are

fast developing and in the process generating more job opportunities. These developments also benefit the investors and entrepreneurs.

At the same time other Malaysian products are also showing good performance. Due to better incomes of farmers and workers, sales at markets and shopping complexes are up. These in turn not only benefit the shopkeepers but also help generate more employment.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said with stability, foreign investments have risen and job opportunities have been increased including for those with higher education.

He stressed, however, that to ensure continued stability two issues are important. Firstly, Malaysians should not be too choosy about their jobs. If there is an opportunity in a field in which one is not trained, one must still be prepared to take the opportunity.

"We must be prepared to retrain ourselves in the new field and become proficient. Actually we are not born to do just one job. If we are prepared to try we can do other jobs just as efficiently," he added.

Secondly, the Prime Minister said, workers must avoid projecting the

Cont'd Back Page, Col. 7

## Mahathir: Stability must be nurtured

FROM PAGE ONE

BT 17 MAY 1988

image that as "workers we can easily create problems for the management".

He advised workers not to be self-centred and not to be influenced into believing that they are oppressed, forgetting that not too long ago they were unemployed and did not have an income.

If we are too self-centred, we will never be happy. As such the work done will not be up to expectations. As a matter of fact, we are fortunate that we have a job, compared with those who are unemployed," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister added too much emphasis on the individual can give adverse sig-

nals to potential investors and they may decide not to invest in Malaysia.

"Remember in the past when you were not employed you prayed that you would land a job, however small the salary," he said. On gaining employment one should not forget the past and jeopardise employment opportunities for those still unemployed.

The Prime Minister also spoke of the need for people to use Hari Raya as a time to get together and foster greater solidarity and friendship. "Our society will not improve and be happy if family ties are not improved and strengthened. There is no joyous Hari Raya for a nation that is in chaos," he added.