

PM: WE HAVE PROVED THEM WRONG

3 3 SEP 1988

PENANG, Fri. (P) The country's economic growth increased by 7.5 per cent during the first six months of this year which was better than some developed countries, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia had proved wrong those who thought that the country would never recover from the recession.

He said the country's improved economy was not due entirely to better commodity prices.

"The people have worked hard to produce goods that are fairly priced. That is why we could compete with other countries," he said at a Semarak dinner at the Esplanade.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was a rich country and there was "enough for everyone."

He said the country's destiny depended on the people and no one should be blamed if the country failed in its objectives.

"We cannot blame the British because they left more than 31 years ago. We cannot blame the effects left by them as we should have corrected them," he said.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said the country did not prevent any race from preserving their culture but that he would like to see a Malaysian culture to develop.

"We cannot expect to see such a culture with the blink of an eye as it would take some time but it should be evolved."

He said there were Chinese characteristics in some Malay culture and vice-versa and one should not feel ashamed of such developments as it was good for the country.