

# Austerity drive paid off<sup>s</sup> handsomely: PM

4 SEP 1988

BUKIT MERTAJAM, Sat. — Malaysia is experiencing one of the best economic upturns in the world because of its austerity drive, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Unlike other countries which continued to borrow heavily as if they were still prosperous, Malaysia had cut down on its borrowings and spending, the Prime Minister added.

He said the austerity policy, under which the Government considered its financial position before spending any money, had seen the country through the difficult times of 1984 to 1986.

"And because of it, we are experiencing an economic recovery that is one of the best in the world," he told thousands of people when launching the Penang Semarak (Loyalty with the People) campaign at Mengkuang Dam here.

Dr Mahathir said the unemployed were beginning to get jobs and traders were getting customers and more new shops were being opened.

He said Malaysians should close ranks and help the Government achieve greater development, stability and unity for the country.

"Malaysians can show to others that we can do as much if not more than people from other countries," he added.

He said the people must work hard and be committed to whatever they were doing.

The Prime Minister also urged the people to erase feelings of jealousy and be wary of groups that he said were trying to plant feelings of envy among them.

He said Semarak was launched to face the threat from such groups.

He said Semarak had benefited the people. Among other things, traders and hawkers could make extra money from the thousands of people attending Semarak gatherings.

Dr Mahathir was confident that through a stronger leader-people relationship, the nation would achieve more rapid development.