

# Highlight successes, PM tells BN parties

7 NOV 1988

By SYED NADZRI

**PENANG, Sat. — Leaders of Barisan Nasional component parties should strive to highlight the achievements of their parties under the coalition rather than just the failures, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.**

He said as leaders they should educate and inform members about the BN spirit and the Government's efforts to ensure the country's well-being.

"Let's not just point to the failures of our respective races in getting certain things without accepting and showing the achievements of the community."

The Prime Minister and BN chairman gave this reminder when he opened the 17th Gerakan annual delegates' conference at Komtar here this morning.

Parties representing the various races have in fact received most of the things they asked for, he said.

"But since they did not highlight this, they not only caused the people

But there were a few members of component parties who did not adhere to the BN spirit.

"They act like the Opposition and this is the sort of reaction which the Opposition wants. They (the BN leaders) may think that they have to act like the Opposition leaders sometimes in order to win support from the races they represent.

"Although it is true that we have to look after the interests of the communities we represent, as BN leaders we have to weigh whether our actions would be for the good of the people and the country as a whole.

"And the leaders should realise that there are better and more proper channels to raise grouses."

About 1,000 delegates attended today's conference and among those present at the opening were leaders of the various BN component parties except the MCA.

The Prime Minister said BN component party leaders should have the ability to lead and not be led by party members.

The leaders must be brave and bold enough to give accurate information to prevent misunderstanding among the people, he added.

"If we play to sentiments just to get support, we are actually not leaders but mere followers. And if all

# Tourism efforts paying off: PM

★ FROM PAGE ONE (Sun) 27 NOV 1988

and to rectify the very things they criticise and seek to change.

"And while they say that the Government is undemocratic and oppressive, we have Opposition leaders who cannot accept criticisms from their own ranks. The critics will be expelled from the party."

The Prime Minister said he was happy, however, that BN component parties have on the whole consolidated their positions and are in a better position now than one or two years ago.

Touching on the economy, Dr Mahathir called on all quarters to work towards achieving a better growth rate for the country. And he was happy to note that efforts to make tourism a major revenue earner was bearing fruit.

"As far as direct air arrivals are concerned, we have managed to attract more visitors although two or three of our neighbours are also very aggressive in promoting this industry."

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife, later opened the Penang Bird Park at Seberang Jaya. He leaves for Alor Star tomorrow.