

PM: Private sector has important role

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan. 11 — The Government will only be responsible for major supervisory activities, important services and security when the restructuring of the economy is completed, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

The Prime Minister said the thrust of the on-going restructuring of the economy was to promote industrialisation and for the private sector to be the key economic player.

He said the Government envisaged its direct involvement in the economy through its agencies and corporations would be substantially reduced with this restructuring.

"The Government's responsibilities will then be providing major supervisory activities, infrastructural development and ser-

vices and security," Dr Mahathir said at the annual dinner of the Diplomatic and Administrative Services Association.

The Prime Minister also urged civil servants to evaluate and study the approaches used by the Government in administering the country.

He said quality should be the main emphasis in any effort taken to improve the administrative machinery. "We should strive to do even better than before."

He added that civil servants should be bold enough to question and analyse existing approaches if they wanted to enhance the quality of the Government's administrative machinery.

The Prime Minister also said administering a

country was not as easy as before.

"The country is susceptible to development and changes taking place in the world so much so our economy can be easily affected by these events," he said, urging civil servants to devise measures and appropriate approaches to react to such changes.

He said if the Government machinery provided all the support to the private sector to make its activities successful, then, jobs would be created and this would overcome the problem of unemployment associated with a rapid population increase.

Later the Association donated \$10,000 to the warriors fund. The cheque was handed over by its president Datuk Haji Hassan Ibrahim to Dr Mahathir.