

PM: They have helped keep peace and stability

Pat on the back for civil servants

BY SHAHRIN SHUIB

IPOH, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today praised Government servants, including armed forces and police personnel, for their "positive contributions" in the maintenance of political stability, peace and prosperity in the country.

He also praised civil servants for their "understanding of the working of democracy and the right of the people to elect the Government of their choice".

"Civil servants cannot get actively involved in politics in order to avoid any conflict of interest.

"Our armed forces and police personnel have always executed the policies formulated by the elected Government."

The Prime Minister was addressing a gathering of about 3,500 Government servants from all levels and from various departments, statutory bodies and local Government authorities at the Indera Mulia Stadium this afternoon.

Dr Mahathir said there would be chaos and instability in the country if civil servants refused to

In Page 2

- YOUNG LEADERS TOLD TO LEARN PARTY HISTORY
- TEACH KIDS TO BE CLEAN, SAYS DR SITI HASMAH
- KAMLI WANTS OLD DOCUMENTS
- DR M MEETS BARISAN LEADERS

implement the policies agreed upon by the elected political leadership.

He cited the case of a neighbouring country whose economic growth had been affected by the occasional attempted coups by the rebellious and indisciplined members of its security forces.

On civil service unions, he said they should discuss their grievances with the Government instead of holding strikes.

"Organising strikes will not solve their problems as the strikes would discourage investors from investing in the country."

Dr Mahathir also pledged to review the current salaries of the 700,000 civil servants if the country's present 8.5 per cent economic growth rate increased with the Government receiving more revenue from various kinds of taxes.

"There was no reason for me to purposely prevent Government employees from getting higher salaries, as the Government's money is not mine."

After the speech, the Prime Minister also answered questions from several Government servants during a dialogue.

One of the questions was posed by Mr Sarjit Singh, a clerk at the High Court here, who inquired about interest payments a loan he took to buy a house in the abandoned Taman Sri Tanjung project in Tanjung Rambutan.

Mr Sarjit said the borrowers wanted the Government to suspend the interest payments.

Dr Mahathir advised Mr Sarjit Singh to write to the housing loans division of the Treasury so that the matter could be looked into by the officials.