

PM: We'll continue to help poorer nations

14.AUG 1990

KUALA TERENGGANU, Mon. — Malaysia will continue to help the less well-off Third World countries as its contribution to the world, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said that Malaysia would not be proud and selfish but would do its best to assist other friends that were less fortunate.

"Most of the Third World nations in the African and South American continents are backward because the countries had subscribed to the ideologies of socialism and communism.

"We in Malaysia have been able to progress faster as we applied the concept of enterprise under which a person who works harder gets higher income and profits.

"That is why our people have been competing with one another to earn more and this brought development and progress to us," he told about 10,000 people at a ceremony at the State Stadium here to honour his being conferred the title of "Hero of the Third World" by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Peres in Caracas.

Dr Mahathir said that for Malaysia, the only thing important was to have better ties and friends with other countries and to establish a two-way flourishing relationship.

He said the title conferred on him by Mr Peres was "not for Mahathir the person but for Malaysia whose people live prosperously, harmoniously and in unity."

Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad helped the Prime Minister put on a sash embossed with the words "Hero of the Third World" amid cheers from the crowd.