

# PM: NO REASON FOR TOWN FOLK TO GO OPPOSITION

S 20 AUG 1990

PENANG, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Government could not understand why people in towns voted in opposition candidates.

"I cannot understand why when we have served them well. The urbanites have all the facilities and live more comfortably than before.

"There are thoughts that those (urban) seats must be given to others and not to the Barisan Nasional," he said, adding that it would not benefit the people if they voted someone who could not form the Government.

"In a democratic system, only the

Government can help the people. Those outside cannot help but can only criticise. They can only throw books but we think of what to do for the people," he said.

The people should not support someone who gave many promises, Dr Mahathir said at the opening of the Komtar grand staircase and its pedestrian mall here.

"One said if there are more Malay candidates in Penang, then the Chief Minister would be a Malay but his friends did not agree.

"Then he said the deputy Prime Minister would be a Chinese but this

did not work out because the people in the east coast protested," he added.

Dr Mahathir said it was important for the people to determine their own fate.

He said the Government wanted to serve the people and be "your slave and work for your good."

Dr Mahathir said although the different races were not in total harmony, there were no riots, unlike in other countries.

"We solve our problems through negotiations. Our Government is represented by all the races.

"In some countries where there are

different races, we cannot stand like this. There could be arguments which could lead to fights and injuries," he said.

He said Malaysians could move freely anywhere. "This is because we have a Government that gives attention to peace.

"It is not like Amman, 4,340km from here . . . it is not like Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq or Saudi Arabia. We are at ease here and comfortable."

Dr Mahathir said some critics had said the Penang Bridge was a waste of government funds.

"When there was the ferry prob-

lem, we had the bridge . . ." he said.

Among those present at the ceremony were Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir was met on arrival at the Penang airport by the Chief Minister, state executive councillors and state Barisan leaders.

Dr Mahathir later held a one-hour closed-door meeting with Barisan leaders at Komtar.