

Standard
of living
of rural
people
improved

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He cited the country's industrialisation as an example.

"If in the past investment totalled tens of millions of ringgit a year, now in the first half of this year alone investment proposals totalled \$23 billion and there are factories throughout the country with many employment opportunities," he said.

"If we say that we will step up and expand Malaysia's development, there is a great possibility that we will be able to do so," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had succeeded to reduce poverty, and the standard of living of rural people had improved.

He cited several factors which he said had brought success to Malaysia, including democracy, unity among the various races, an efficient and effective administration, and the willingness of the people to join in defending the country.

What was important now, Dr Mahathir said, was for the country to be determined to continue to progress.

The Prime Minister said: "Success for Malaysia means the well-being and prosperity of its people."

YOU CAN DO IT: PM

S 31 AUG 1990

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants Malaysians to be confident of their ability to succeed.

The Prime Minister sees no reason for them to fail in what they set out to do provided they are willing to work hard and with greater discipline.

In his National Day message over RTM tonight, he dwelled at length on this year's theme of *Berjaya* and stressed also the need for honesty in all dealings.

"In keeping with the theme, we must strive to ensure that we succeed in whatever we undertake to do ... We must also have confidence in our ability to overcome future challenges."

Dr Mahathir urged Malaysians to discard narrow interests and concentrate on developing the country.

If there was no peace and development there would be nothing to distribute, he added.

"It is no use for us to win the applause but lose the fight. The Government goes by this philosophy. For our common success, all Malaysians should do the same," he said.

Calling on all in the public and private sectors to practise noble values, Dr Mahathir said history had shown that many developed countries became unstable and backward because of corruption and abuse of power.

"Once corruption becomes widespread, the administration and society will be threatened. When this happens, every effort to develop the country will be ineffective. The administration will be weak, the economy will slide and the people will suffer," he said.

All members of society, whatever their position or occupation in the the public and private sectors, should discharge their duties with a high sense of responsibility and trustworthiness, he said.

It was also important for leaders in any organisation to set a good example for people under them. Good values should also be inculcated in the younger generation, he added.

Dr Mahathir said that dedication and discipline had a lot to do with the success that Malaysia had achieved so far.

However, Malaysia still lagged behind the developed countries in such fields as technology, he said.

Dr Mahathir criticised certain groups which he said still did not seem to have confidence in the country's capacity to achieve its objectives even though various development projects had been successfully carried out.

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