

# PM: There is no magic at work in South Korea

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From Calvin Goh

SEOUL, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said last night that there was no magic in South Korea's economic success except that its people were hardworking and disciplined.

The South Koreans were also prepared to do things in a big way by making large investments to produce goods for export and to go into heavy industries

like shipbuilding, the Prime Minister added.

He said Malaysians should follow the positive work ethics of the Koreans but thinking big did not mean going out to get big loans from the banks and buying big care.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a dinner, hosted by the Malaysian embassy here for members of the Malaysian community, including some 90 students.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Foreign Minis-

ter Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan and the Malaysian ambassador here, Datuk Nik Mohamed Nik Hassan.

Dr Mahathir hoped that the Malaysian students here would learn as much as possible from the South Koreans on their positive work ethics as the success of a country depends on knowledge and hard work.

He said that if South Korea, which was once behind Malaysia in its deve-

lopment, could be successful, there was no reason why Malaysia could not also be the same.

There was no magic at work, he said, adding that this was all in the attitude of the people and the effort they put in.

He also said that there have been much changes in Malaysia over the last 10 years.

Even though the results of efforts put in by Malaysians today would only bear fruit 10 or 40 years

later, it was still the responsibility of the people to develop the country for the future generation, he said.

The Prime Minister also spoke of the changes that South Korea had undergone during his visits to this country.

He said that when he first visited South Korea in 1965, it was then a poor country and far behind Malaysia.

But when he next visited the country in 1977, things had changed and during his last visit here in 1983,

the progress was evident.

He said that in 1983, South Korea already had a car plant producing the Pony.

He added that although the car was of inferior quality then and the local market was limited, the manufacturer, Hyundai, planned to produce 300,000 units.

When he asked them why the huge production, they replied it was for export.

This, Dr Mahathir said, showed their willingness to take calculated risks.