

'No reason for any racial group to be suspicious of Government policies'

PM: There is enough for all

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By Nuraina Samad

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — There is no reason for any racial group in the country to be suspicious of Government policies because they have been formulated with the interest of all communities, **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said today.

At the end of the successful implementation of these policies, each group would have a share of the nation's wealth, the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was continuously trying its best to devise a policy to redistribute wealth without obstructing economic growth. In this, the Government was liberal and fair as evident in its economic and educational policies.

"We have succeeded where others have failed. The world recognises this. There is no other country that can achieve two conflicting objectives," the Prime Minister said at the annual general meeting of the Malaysian Federation of Hokkien Associations at the Federal Hotel.

Dr Mahathir said the country has high potential for further growth, which meant that "there is enough wealth to be distributed equally among everybody".

But he said: "We have to be considerate and take into account the problems of others. As much as the Government takes into account the problems of the Malays, we do too those of the Chinese and the Indians ... we cannot satisfy everybody. We cannot satisfy all the Malays nor can we the Chinese and Indians."

Dr Mahathir said the Government had been able to achieve growth "without being too unfair to anyone".

"Maybe there are others who feel we are unfair to them. We have received complaints from everyone, Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras. This only means that we are doing the right thing.

"If the Malays complain, it means that they are not getting everything they are asking for. This is what is meant by being fair. When you are too fair to one side and not to others, then there is no stability in a multi-racial country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had also

been liberal with its policies on education, language and culture.

He said the Government provided assistance to national-type schools in the country to enable the different ethnic groups in the country to practise their mother tongues.

"But surely as a nation that wishes to have one language to be understood by all, we need to upgrade the use of the national language."

Dr Mahathir said the different ethnic groups were also allowed the freedom to practise their culture. This was the sort of liberalism that could not be found in other countries, including those of the West which had been critical of Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said the second generation of immigrants in these countries had even lost their roots and most were unable to speak their mother tongues.

The Prime Minister said the Government adopted a liberal attitude because it valued peace and stability, which would bring about prosperity in the country.

He said animosity among the races would not

□ TOLL OPERATOR PAID \$100,000 A DAY IN COMPENSATION: P2

do anybody any good. Instead, it would create tension and unrest, preventing the country from achieving economic progress, he added.

Unrest would only have adverse effects on the economy and would obstruct development, he added.

Dr Mahathir said for this reason the Government felt unhappy with the recent violent demonstration at Jalan Cheras. This was not the Malaysian way of solving problems, Dr Mahathir said, adding that the Malaysian way was by discussion, which was far more beneficial than rioting.

Dr Mahathir said the Government wanted to be fair to everyone and did not believe in applying force or "extreme methods" to settle problems, like in certain countries.

Dr Mahathir, in this regard praised the Malaysian Federation of Hokkien Associations for "being very reasonable and always abiding by Government policies".

"I can assure you that the Government on its part will work closely with the federation," he said.