

# Discharge duties well, urges PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad urged all ministers, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries yesterday to discharge their duties well and do their utmost to serve the nation.

Describing the new team as "the best, or else I would not have selected them", he stressed the need for them to adhere to the oath of secrecy and to abide by collective responsibility. He pointed out that in the past there had been instances of abuse of power as well as cases of individuals abusing their positions in pursuit of personal interest.

They claimed that they did not agree to or had any part in some decisions and, therefore, were not responsible for some of the policies implemented by the Government. "This was done to enhance their influence."

"As for the new Cabinet once a decision has been made it should be considered as final. They should concentrate on their work and assume full responsibility in developing the nation," he told reporters after announcing the new Cabinet line-up in Kuala Lumpur.

While there may be differences in opinion, the Prime Minister said, after discussions the final decision must be adhered to by all and a common stand adopted by the Cabinet.

Asked for his advice to the new and old

faces, the Prime Minister said that his advice to all is the same — that they should give their full attention and energy to the task entrusted to them.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said all Cabinet members, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries, old and new, must declare their assets — moveable and immovable property — to the Prime Minister. He said they will be given time to complete the task of declaring all their assets.

The Prime Minister said existing government agencies such as the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) and the police will continue to monitor if there is corruption or abuse of power by the ministers, their deputies and the parliamentary secretaries.

Earlier, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the two-thirds mandate in Parliament given by the people will be used by the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) to further develop the country.

"The BN Government will administer the country cleanly, efficiently and with full responsibility so that Malaysia can continue to enjoy peace, stability and prosperity.

"As a responsible Government, the BN will try to implement policies and pro-

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## PM's advice

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grammes which will benefit all Malaysian citizens. The Government will strive to develop the country at a faster pace," he said.

Asked whether there will be a change in the Cabinet line-up after the Umno General Assembly, the Prime Minister said he does not see any reason for this unless he is challenged and defeated in the contest for the Umno presidency or if there is a major upset in the Umno contest. He explained: "It is not our practice to reshuffle the Cabinet according to the Umno General Assembly."

— By Azam Aris