

PM: Several unions made use of by politicians

S = 1 DEC 1990

SEVERAL trade unions were made use of by certain political parties during the recent general election, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"These trade unions were made use of by the politicians. Trade unions are there to protect the interest of the workers and not to get involved in politics. There are politicians who say that workers rights would be better looked after if trade unionists got involved in politics," the Umno president said.

"However, the experience in several other countries where labour parties came into power showed that the workers did not become better off. Instead the situation became worse," he added.

Dr Mahathir went on to speak about the economy of the Malays, and said that policies and legislation alone could not ensure their economic success.

"Success cannot be achieved by just drawing up policies and pieces of legislation, and putting

ing nations," he said.

"In politics, we have had more successes than many other countries which achieved independence after World War Two," he said. "What are the specific aims of Umno now (concerning the Malays' economic wellbeing)? Do we want the country to remain a Third World nation that is continually oppressed by the super powers or do we want to build up our strength as an independent and sovereign nation?"

Dr Mahathir said there were European countries that were smaller and less populous but were far more advanced and better known and more respected than Malaysia.

He said there were also backward and poor nations of the East which had now achieved progress of a level comparable to the West, and cited the Asian Tigers — Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore — as examples.

Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian per capita income had increased from \$775 in 1957 to \$6,147 this

year with the population growing from six million in 1957 to slightly more than 17 million now.

He said Umno and the government had plans and approaches to further develop the economy.

"If we do not waste time debating the pros and cons of plans and approaches, we will achieve our success much faster," he said.

He said that during the formulation of policies concerning the assimilation of Islamic values, looking east, privatisation, heavy industry, a lot of time was wasted on debates about approaches used to overcome the problems that are hindering us," he said.

"Everyone must accept not only the policies but also the approaches that have been adopted by the government," he said.

He urged the Malays and the other bumiputras to be open-minded, and said that materialistic achievements must be balanced with spiritual development to ensure that the community did not "lose its bearings."

Dr Mahathir said the Fifth Malaysia Plan would end at the end of this year and a post-1990 economic programme had to be formulated.

"If with only a policy we can succeed, then today we are already successful. But we know that a mere policy does not ensure success. What will determine success is our efforts in implementing the policy with sincerity, hard work and organisation," he said.

restraints on others while we get ready," he said. "There should instead be a willingness to face challenges and to adopt new methods and work culture," Dr Mahathir said. "We must also be willing to learn from others who have achieved success."

Dr Mahathir warned of the danger of becoming "too arrogant to change our values because we are so smug about our own identity even though those values might destroy us."

"Biar mati anak, jangan mati adat may be a lofty ideal but if our *anak* is dead, who will carry on the *adat*?" he asked.

Dr Mahathir said Umno must strive to achieve as much success in economy for the Malays as it had in politics.

"The political success of the Malays has been astounding," he said.

In the political arena, he said, the Malays had succeeded in developing first from a feudal race which had surrendered political power, to becoming a race that had adopted a foreign and sophisticated political system to build the nation and achieve peace and stability.

He said the world now acknowledged Malaysia and the country had played important roles in the international arena.

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