

PM's VISION OF 2020

# All must share in the riches: Dr M

By AHIRUDIN ATTAN BT 13 APR 1991

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says what he wants most of a developed Malaysia by the year 2020 is for all Malaysians to get their share of the economic cake by then.

"If Bumiputeras, for example, cannot get their share of the economy when the country has developed, then that is not our vision of 2020. What we want is for all Malaysians to get their share," the Prime Minister said.

In an interview with RTM last night, the Prime Minister said he hopes the 30 per cent Bumiputera equity participation objective, a major component of the New Economic Policy (NEP), can be attained by the end of the decade. The NEP expired last year.

He reiterated, however, that there should not be a time-frame to achieve this target as was the

case under the 20-year NEP.

"We do not want to be tied to a particular time-frame because, as I have said, even if we achieve it by the year 2000, the level could still fall back the following year if the Bumiputeras cannot manage their share.

"It is better, therefore, if Bumiputeras can maintain whatever share they have in the year 2000 even if it is less than 30 per cent, and then work harder from there towards attaining the 30 per cent target," he said.

To suggestions that the Malays are living in fear because the NEP has expired, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he sees no reason why this should be so. Ticking them off for their tendency to take the issue at face value, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said a policy means nothing if it fails to achieve its objectives. "What's

important is to fulfil these policies."

To do this, he added, calls for a number of actions. "And I would like to stress here that if these actions are left to the Government to implement alone, nothing will come of them. This needs the cooperation of all Bumiputeras, non-Bumiputeras and the Government."

More importantly, the Bumiputeras must be prepared to correct their weaknesses. "If they are not prepared to do so, then not even a thousand policies will do."

On the post-1990 economic policy, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the principle elements of the policy are expected to be similar to those of the NEP. Efforts towards creating a more balanced society and eliminating poverty, for example, will

still be pursued.

The changes may be in the approach the Government adopts to tackle the problems. Approaches experimented with under the NEP but which failed to achieve desired results will be dropped. In the same vein, approaches that worked will continue to be adopted.

"In the meantime, we will formulate new approaches to help us reach our objectives," he said, adding that quite a number of proposals by the National Economic Consultative Council will be adopted.

The Prime Minister also quashed rumours that his health is suspect. "If there's a 24-hour TV programme, maybe I could show you what I do the whole day long and then maybe they will believe me when I say I'm in great shape."