

Dr M: We will use proven methods for OPP

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. —
The Government will devise
new methods to implement
the 10-year Outline Perspec-
tive Plan (OPP) to replace
the New Economic Policy
which expired last year, Da-
tuk Seri Dr Mahathir Moha-
mad said today.

Some of the old methods
which failed to produce the
desired results under the
NEP will not be relied upon
again, the Prime Minister
said, emphasising that only
proven methods would be
retained.

Dr Mahathir said this
when interviewed by RTM
for a special programme to
be aired soon. Among oth-
ers, he was asked to elabo-
rate on the Government's
stand on a post-1990 eco-
nomic policy, new ap-
proaches in its implementa-
tion and the possible time
frame to implement these
programmes.

Dr Mahathir said the Gov-
ernment felt that efforts to
create a more balanced soci-
ety needed to be continued,
an exercise that coincided
with efforts to wipe out pov-
erty.

"There may be some
changes in the approaches.
We may devise new ap-
proaches which may be
more effective besides using
some of the old methods,"
he said.

He said the new approach-
es may revolve around ways
to help Bumiputeras retain
their holdings.

He added that there had
been too much stress on
ownership, and not on the
retention of these holdings.
He said the Government
had done a lot for Bumipu-
tera ownership, but added
that their management of
these holdings was weak.

"Inevitably, some of these
holdings were lost, and we
cannot meet our targets. It
is better for us to give a
little, knowing that the
stake is safely retained rath-
er than giving out a big por-
tion only to have it lost from
Bumiputera holding," Dr
Mahathir said.

The Government hoped to
achieve its target by the end
of this decade, the Prime
Minister said, but stressed
that the Government would
not want to be tied to a
specific period for this pur-
pose.

Falling back on his earlier
argument, Dr Mahathir
said: "Even if the 30 per cent
target is met by the year
2000, we don't want to see
this reduced or lost in fu-
ture.

"That would be meaning-
less," he added.