

PM urges people to strive for higher economic growth

Everyone to get fair share

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Malaysians should strive to ensure that economic growth exceeded population increase so that everyone will get a fair share of the economic pie, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Government believed that the apportionment of the nation's wealth should only come from an "enlarged portion of the economic cake" which meant that people could share the wealth only when there was growth.

"With political stability the nation's economy has grown intensively. It is better to share the wealth with everyone than to fight over it which will only result in riots and instability which will bring down the nation's economy," the Prime Minister said when he opened the MCA general assembly.

In this context, he urged all quarters to work diligently to ensure the success of the National Develop-

interests instead of self interests," he said.

He said the BN system was to solve issues through negotiations and not through demonstration or tension-filled public debates which was the secret to stability in the country.

The Government has embarked on a new era to make Malaysia a developed nation by the year 2020. He said this was a responsibility of all races.

He urged Malaysians to focus their hearts, efforts and energies to achieve the target.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was a peaceful and stable country unlike many other developing nations, with multi-racial communities, including those in Europe where there were riots and even war among the races which have resulted in their economies being ruined and the people experiencing hardships.

He said co-operation among the races needed a "give-and-take" attitude which has to be fair to all sides.

ment Policy, the Sixth Malaysia Plan and Vision 2020.

Among those who attended the assembly were Barisan Nasional component party leaders, including Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak president Datuk Leo Moggie, MIC deputy president Datuk S. Subramaniam, Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and Penang's Chief Minister Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

In the bid to maintain political stability, Dr Mahathir said, it was important for BN leaders to upgrade their existing co-operation especially since the Opposition would continue its efforts to divide them.

"They (the Opposition) realise that as long as the component parties are united and strong the Opposition cannot extend their political influence.

"Therefore, from time to time, they bring up out-of-date and irrelevant issues which they hope to use to confuse the people. We can counter these allegations if we give priority to national

"If one side asks too much for themselves, it means that the give-and-take is not fair. The problem is how to ensure what is fair and what is not?

"The May 1969 incident occurred because it was deemed fair that the Malays worked in the Government while the non-Malays monopolised the private sector where unlimited wealth could be procured.

"The definition of 'fair' in this context was wrong because the Malays wanted a share of the economic pie while the non-Malays wanted participation in the civil service.

"Since we were very liberal in practising democracy, extremist talks and activities resulted in a tense situation which led to the 1969 incident," he said.

Nowadays, he said, the Government and people know better about the give-and-take attitude and how much each race can "give and take" in comparison with other races.

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