

# PM: Govt has been fair to all races

By ANNA TAING

THE question of unfair wealth distribution and economic deprivation in Malaysia does not arise because the country's economic system is free. Everyone, irrespective of race, has the opportunity to improve themselves, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said last night.

No community should feel they have been neglected in the distribution of the country's wealth or feel "economically deprived", he said when opening the Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC)'s 38th general assembly in Kuala Lumpur.

The Government has been fair to all, with the various communities currently enjoying the benefits of economic growth as a result of the country's development policy, he said. There are wide opportunities for those with initiative, prepared to work hard and have a will to develop.

He said the Barisan Nasional (BN) Government will continue to ensure that all communities enjoy the benefits of development and progress. In this context, the country's economic cake is adequate for everyone, he added.

"What is important is for us to strengthen the country's political stability and unity so that the economy can continue to grow," the Prime Minister said, pointing out that if there is unity, no one can hinder the country's efforts towards achieving development.

The biggest challenge ahead is to ensure harmony and continued economic growth and the achievement of a fully developed country status by 2020, the Prime Minister said, adding that "we cannot afford to waste time on issues which can hinder its achievement".

He also urged the Indian community to continue giving support to the BN Government and not be influenced by the tactics of opposition parties which frequently create dissatisfaction among the people.

He warned that opposition parties, such as the Democratic Action Party (DAP), will not hesitate to exploit the racial issues to make the people hate the Government.

He said that all problems encountered by the Indian community should be brought to the discussion table as there is no problem which cannot be solved via unity and a "give and take" attitude.