

An extremist Government will only create problems; says Dr M

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By Syed Nadzri and Raslan Baharom

MALACCA, Wed. — Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned that the country would be beset with problems if an extremist Government was elected into power.

"There would be jealousy, unfair and unwarranted actions and many other problems," the Prime Minister said.

He said the majority of the population wanted a moderate Government and a situation in which everyone

worked together to build the nation.

Opening the Graha Makmur, the Malacca Municipal Council's \$21 million building here, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was the envy of many countries due to its prosperity and unity among the people.

"The people are united despite their diverse backgrounds because of the Government's good planning and strategies.

"And because most people want peace and prosperity, they elect a moderate Government."

Dr Mahathir said a certain State could not progress well with an "extremist party running the Government".

"It is running into various problems — Jealousy, unwarranted actions, decisions which are against the norm and the like.

"But the majority of Malaysians have chosen the middle way and elected a moderate party which has enabled us to build the nation," he added.

He said Malaysians could always work together despite their diverse back-

grounds.

"If during the colonial period, the Malays were stuck in the *kampung*, the Indians in the estates and the Chinese in the towns, today we often find everyone working happily in the factories.

"There is no problem and there is a close relationship among the races. This is what attracts investors to our country."

On a move by the International Metal Workers' Federation (IMF) to recommend that Malaysia be suspended from International Labour Organisation (ILO) confer-

ences until certain conditions relating to freedom of association for workers in the electronics industry are met, he said some trade unionists had become turncoats after being made leaders by virtue of the numerous jobs created by the Government.

"They had done nothing in the first place to provide employment opportunities. But due to the jobs created by the Government, they use their position as leaders

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Dr M: Workers not easily influenced

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for their own advantage.”

He said Malaysia had achieved full employment due to the untiring efforts of the Government.

“But unfortunately, there are people who instigate workers to form trade unions and organise strikes.

“In the electronic industry alone, there are 120,000 workers. If these workers are allowed to form a trade union and pay a monthly subscription of \$1, the leaders can use the \$120,000 for who-knows-what.

“This is the type of leaders they are. But workers

are not easily influenced by these people,” he added.

Dr Mahathir said the continued stability and growth of the economy would encourage the establishment of more factories.

“Wages will automatically increase. Job opportunities would exceed the number of workers the higher wages will come about not through industrial actions.”

Following the opening of the building, Dr Mahathir launched a book, *Melaka — a Historical City of Malaysia*.

The hardcover pictorial book is published by Malaysia Mining Corporation Bhd

and produced by Shahren Corporate Communications Sdn Bhd.

He later attended a dialogue with about 30 Taiwanese legislators, investors and journalists.

Later at a dinner hosted by the State Government, he said the Malaysia Incorporated concept he had introduced 10 years ago was showing signs of success.

He said this concept of Government, which calls for close co-operation among the politicians, businessmen and Government officials, was being copied by many countries.

“The co-operation among

the three sectors is essential in bringing progress to the country.

“We can see it now. While some countries are facing economic recession and hardship, Malaysia is forging ahead,” he added.

Dr Mahathir said attitude was another factor which could determine the success or failure of a community.

“We have to inculcate a healthy habit and have positive attitudes if we want to do well.”

Earlier, Dr Mahathir launched a float procession at Jalan Laksamana in conjunction with the Malacca Historical Day celebrations.