

PM: People must change attitude

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JOHOR BRRU: Malaysia is set to become a fully industrialised nation soon but the people must change their attitude and exploit potentials to achieve this, the Prime Minister said.

He said Malaysia was already known as an industrial nation among developing countries and had the potential to become fully-industrialised to match other economic powers in years to come.

"We are aiming to be, a developed nation by 2020 but will achieve industrialised status earlier if the people and the private sector continue to back the Government's aspirations to work hard and learn," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said on

Thursday night.

"Even today, 53 per cent of our exports comprised manufactured products, unlike in the past where the bulk of our exports were rubber, tin ore and other unprocessed items."

Dr Mahathir was speaking to about 2,000 Barisan Nasional supporters at a dinner hosted by the Johor Barisan at the Menti Besar's residence, *Saujana*.

He said many other developing countries were turning to Malaysia for expertise in industrial fields as they realised Malaysia's potential in becoming an industrial giant.

The growing foreign investment, he said, also reflected similar confidence.

Dr Mahathir said uniform growth could only

be realised if the more progressive states like Johor and Selangor helped the slower and backward states catch up by channelling out some investments.

He said it could not be denied that while some states like Johor were set to achieve newly industrialised status by the year 2005, others would take much longer or even till the year 2020.

He said the Government constantly received applications from all states which wanted more funds to provide better infrastructure and facilities for their development.

"The more progressive ones like Johor have asked for money to build more highways, better airport and ports to meet rapid expansion demands while others have asked for money to match the

progressive states," he said.

"This is where the Federa! Government's constraint lies. We would like to give money to all but there will never be enough to please everybody.

"This is why we want the states to privatise programmes so that they can realise their ambitions without burdening the Government."

Dr Mahathir said while rapid development had brought about some problems, it was better to face problems arising from success than have problems because of a lack of development.

He reminded the people that the development realised by the nation so far was a result of unity and undivided support for the Government.