

Close inefficient farms and polluting

# Dr M: Share the burden

industries, rich nations told

By Ahmad A. Talib

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged industrialised countries to close down their inefficient farms and polluting industries, and join developing countries to plant more trees in an exercise he called "greening of the world".

The Prime Minister also urged industrialised nations to stop twisting the arm of developing countries, adding that the rich and developing nations should work together to protect and resuscitate the environment.

They should share the burden and responsibility of trying to promote a cleaner Earth, Dr Mahathir said in an eloquent address at the opening of the second ministerial conference of developing countries on environment and development.

His speech, which some observers said was just as good as a ready-made document for a common stand for developing countries, met with repeated applause from the audience of visiting ministers, delegates and officials from industrialised countries.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia had, on its part, already agreed to ensure that at least 50 per cent of its land area would remain permanently under forest.

He said that if the environment was to be cleaned up, those most responsible for polluting it must act.

Since 80 per cent of the pollution was due to activities in the industrialised countries of the developed North, they must first clean up their own backyards. Their NGOs (non-governmental organisations) should stay at home and apply pressure on their own Governments, industrialists and military leaders.

Putting across his arguments for a joint approach in maintaining a cleaner environment worldwide, Dr Mahathir said: "Malaysia would like to propose to the world community a comprehensive environmentally-beneficial programme involving the greening of the world.

"As a first step, we call upon the global community to target at least 30 per cent of the earth's terrestrial area to be greened by the year 2000. The world now has 27.6 per cent of its land under forest cover and we need only increase this by 2.4 per cent over the next eight years.

"This is clearly not an unreasonable target. All na

PLEASE TURN TO  
PAGE 5, COL 1

## PM: West must be committed

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reiterated yesterday that Malaysia will not go to the Earth Summit if the West is not committed to ensuring its success.

He said Malaysia was still unsure if the consensus reached among the developing countries in Kuala Lumpur would be accepted by the developed countries in Rio de Janeiro in June.

"I think before we reach Rio we should get the commitment from the West to ensure that the meeting will be a success," he said after opening the conference.

The conference is to finalise the Kuala Lumpur Declaration to be presented at the summit, which is

officially known as the United Nations Conference on Development and Environment (UnCED).

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would consider its attendance after the ministerial conference.

"Other countries can also become the spokesman for the South," he said when commenting on calls from some countries that Malaysia should play a leading role at UnCED.

"It is unfair for the developing countries to sacrifice their development and sources of profits for the developed countries."

On the militant stand by some Western non-governmental organisations (NGOs) he said they were using environmental issues for economic gains