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# 'Success has silenced critics'

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9 MAY 1992

THE success of the country's various policies, which were heavily criticised when the Government pioneered them in the 1980s, has now silenced the critics, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said last night.

Dr Mahathir attributed this success to unity and the determination and hardwork of the people.

"Today, international media and critics which criticised Malaysia's New Economic Policy (NEP) for its emphasis on race have learned the lesson for not recognising the various races and taking their interest into account in economic policies," he told some 500 Barisan Nasional leaders at a dinner organised by the Government Backbenchers' Club.

The Prime Minister said the Opposition had also criticised the Government when the Look East Policy was introduced.

"Now, we see countries in the West, hit by economic problems at home, are turning towards the East to learn."

The same goes to government policies on privatization, Malaysia Inc, and heavy industries. "It shows that we have the capacity and capability to succeed. When the people have confidence in themselves, Malaysia will be brought to greater heights."

Earlier, his deputy, Encik Ghafar Baba, urged the people to continue giving support to Dr Mahathir in view of his untiring efforts to develop the nation.

President of the Government Backbenchers Club Shahidan Kassim, after reciting a People's Declaration of support for the Government, presented Dr Mahathir with the "Architect of Modern Malaysia" title on behalf of the club.