

Dr M: Vital ingredient for economic growth, social justice

# All must uphold the law

By Ahmad A. Talib

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The rule of law must be upheld if the nation is to forge ahead with more economic success, consolidate its political stability and improve its social environment, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Presenting his congratulatory speech and pledge of loyalty before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah on His Majesty's 64th birthday at Istana Negara today, the Prime Minister said all quarters must extend their co-operation in the effort to defend the rule of law in the country.

"The laws in the country must be adhered to and respected by all. The country is not likely to be stable and successful if everyone does not respect the administrative and legal systems of the country. We will also not be respected internationally.

"Government rules and regulations and the system by which the country is administered as well as the enforcement of these laws must be followed if a just society is to be created.

"The Government and the *rakyat* are proud that Your Majesty strongly supports efforts to uphold the rule of law in the country," Dr Mahathir said.

He added that development has many dimensions and was usually accompanied by social changes. Some of these changes have negative effects on certain quarters even though they have good effect generally to society in the long run.

The patience of Malaysians is an important factor in the success of whatever

changes set to take place, Dr Mahathir said, adding that in this context the Government would work to ensure that the development in the country is balanced and with the desired positive effects.

Policies formulated and programmes drawn up will be monitored to make sure that the desired results are achieved, that is, more growth accompanied by fair distribution of wealth without adversely affecting anyone.

"I am confident that we can achieve the targets set under the National Development Plan and the Sixth Malaysia Plan," he said.

In addition to this, Government policies also ensure that the *rakyat* are not spendthrift. Overspending will have negative effects because it can lead to inflation and this will offset whatever income gains made by the people, the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir praised the King for his keen interest in national administration and his visits overseas have helped to improve relations with the respective nations.

In this regard, Malaysia will continue to take an active part in world affairs and pay particular attention to strengthen relations with Third World countries.

"Malaysia will continue to speak out on issues it considers relevant and important to it. In the exercise to overcome international problems as well as the work to create a new world order, Malaysia will continue to support the United Nations," the Prime Minister said.