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# PM: Everyone to share country's economic cake

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government will ensure that the nation's wealth will be evenly distributed among its people, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yes-

He said Malaysia was fortunate as it was among the few democratic countries in the world which ensured social justice for its people.

"The present system (of distributing wealth) has not only united the people but also created political stability conducive to the economy," he said before opening the MIC 39th general assembly.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional's chairman, stressed that the emphasis on social justice had not caused

any race to feel isolated.

However, he said the poverty situation in the country was strange as there were plenty of jobs which led to a dependence on foreign workers.

"This is where political parties must play their part and encourage Malaysians to grab whatever opportunities available," he said.

He said that in its efforts to achieve a developed nation status, the Government would not neglect communities which had yet to enjoy the benefits of the booming economy.

Dr Mahathir said steps had been taken to ensure equitable distribution would be maintained but added that the share might not be equal.

"It is impossible for every-

one to get the same slice as each of us has different roles and capabilities," he said.

"The only system which ensures equal distribution will be socialism or communism but then everyone will be poor."

The Government was confident its efforts for a fairer distribution would be achieved through the establishment of facilities such as clinics and schools.

Dr Mahathir also said the Government would develop its human resources to ensure that the poverty and income gaps between races would be narrowed.

However, he said the people should not be too dependent on Government programmes as it would cause unhealthy devel-

opment.

"There are lots of business opportunities now and the Government will assist where it can," he said.

"However, too much reliance on the Government will create a dependence mentality and this can weaken the economy."

Dr Mahathir called on MIC members to unite under the BN Government to ensure that the Indian community would get its just share of the economic cake.

He said if the Indians failed to unite, it would be detrimental to their economic development.

Later, Dr Mahathir told reporters that the Government had provided aid to Tamil schools in the country.

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