

# Ensuring economic

By K.P. Waran

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The development of a multi-racial country like Malaysia cannot be based entirely on economic dictates but should be implemented in the context of nation-building, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said similarly, economic success should be measured by how far it could contribute towards national development and in achieving economic justice.

"Only through economic justice can we ensure the objectives of Vision 2020 are fully achieved," he said when opening the second Malaysian Chinese Economic Congress with the theme **National Development Towards Vision 2020**.

Among those who attended the conference were MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Law Minister Syed Hamid Albar and Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Tan Sri Wee Boon Ping.

"We have seen how other nations have crumbled because of their self-interests.

"Such selfish attitude will not benefit anyone and it must never be practised in a country like Malaysia which is trying to attain rapid development," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the spirit of co-operation and tolerance among the communities served as the foundation and prerequisite for achieving the objectives of Vision 2020 and the survival of Malaysia as an independent nation.

He said the spirit of co-

operation and tolerance was important because it could guarantee stability and progress of the nation.

"If the growth rate of more than eight per cent attained since 1988 can be sustained, Malaysia's hope of becoming a developed country by the year 2020 will be bright," he said.

Dr Mahathir called on the Chinese to accept with a positive attitude the Government's efforts to help the Bumiputeras in commerce and industry.

He said the objective of the National Development Policy (NDP) was to speed up economic growth apart from creating fair opportunities for everyone.

"This is the only suitable way to ensure stability and national unity in the future. Consistent with the NDP, the Government will continue to help the Bumiputeras to bring them at par with non-Bumiputeras in commerce and industry.

"The Government wants to create Bumiputera entrepreneurs who are resourceful, competitive, dynamic and progressive and at par with other communities so that they too can contribute effectively towards the realisation of Vision 2020 objectives."

"I hope the Chinese community will not mistake this as an injustice to them," he said. He hoped they would accept it positively as an effort towards political stability for the good of the country in the long run.

Dr Mahathir said the country's rapid economic growth provided many op-

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Portunities and no one would lose if the opportunities were distributed to balance the development of the communities in Malaysia.

He urged the Chinese community to enhance joint ventures between Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras because it was an effective way to achieve economic integration and added that such interaction would wipe out suspicions between the two parties and reduce racial sentiments.

"The Malays and Bumiputeras should use such joint ventures to learn the business, not to get rich quick.

"The Chinese, on the other hand, should regard their Malay partners as equal and real partners, not merely as a front to obtain Government assistance," he said.

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Dr Mahathir hoped the two-day congress, organised by the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, would discuss ways to enhance joint ventures between the Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras.

Dr Ling later told reporters there was no reason for the Chinese to be insecure as the world was a huge market with many new opportunities opening up.

"We must pull ourselves together. With our combined resources, we will get into all the markets that are opening up including China and Indo-China.

"The world is at our feet. We have to pool our resources and take up the challenge," he said.