

Penang no longer Dustbin of the Orient, says Dr M

By A. Kathirasan

PENANG, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight congratulated the Penang Government for doing such a good job of cleaning up the State that it can now discard the *Dustbin of the Orient* tag given by him almost two years ago.

He said he was glad to see improvements in Penang as it showed the State Government had received his criticism well.

Speaking at a State dinner at the Bukit Jambul Country Club, Dr Mahathir said

when he was asked about Penang's state of cleanliness then, he was blunt in saying that Penang should drop its Pearl of *the Orient* tag for *Dustbin of the Orient*.

"When I said that, I thought people in Penang would be angry with me. The Penang Government, however, took it as a challenge and began work to rectify the situation and the result now shows," he said.

The Prime Minister said that on his way from the airport to Bukit Jambul and Komtar, he noticed that the

roads were clean, more trees had been planted, and roadside stalls had been removed.

"I congratulate the State Government for making the effort and succeeding in cleaning up the place."

"If everyone reacts similarly to criticisms, the country will progress faster," he added.

Also present at the dinner were Chief Minister Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Chief Minister Dr Ibrahim Saad and former Chief Minister Tun Dr Lim Chong Eū.