

# PM: Industriali

## sation a wise move

By Vijayan Menon

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The Government's decision to venture into industrialisation was a wise move, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We have made a very wise choice by going for industrialisation rather than depending on our commodities.

"In running a country, it is important to recognise the trends. It was recognised that commodities could not support the country or make it grow or provide employment opportunities for the growing population."

He said the price of tin had fallen again and that of rubber was no better.

"Moving away from having our commodities being manipulated by markets which are far away from our shores was to industrialise. Because of industrialisation, we are now much better off economically.

"In fact, we are much better off than many other countries including industrialised countries," he said when launching a book entitled *Dealing With the Malaysian Civil Service* here today.

Also launched was a Development Administration Circular entitled *Guidelines*

NST - 3 JUN 1993  
Client's Charter.

He said focusing on Vision 2020 was also a step in the right direction.

"But we can achieve this target only if all of us cooperate and work together."

Dr Mahathir said the Malaysia Incorporated concept had been a great success.

"We inherited a civil service system on which it was possible to improve with time. We can design improvements but it is the implementation which is very difficult.

"Fortunately, for us, we have been able to cope with the complicated process of administration in modern times."

He said for the good of the country, the Government decided that the usual, almost confrontational, attitude of the civil service towards the private sector and vice versa should be put to an end.

It was decided that the civil service and the private sector should co-operate under a concept that had become known as Malaysia Incorporated.

"The term Malaysia Incorporated was borrowed from a rather derogatory description of Japan, which was known as Japan Incorporated.

"The people who described Japan as Japan In-

corporated regarded this good co-operation between the Government and the private sector as something very bad.

"But we observed that, because of this good co-operation, Japan was able to progress very rapidly. We got the idea about Malaysia Incorporated from watching Japan's progress and its results."

He said Malaysia decided to have this sort of co-operation but getting both the civil service and the private sector to accept the concept of working closely together was not easy.

"Traditionally, the feeling is that the civil service is an obstruction to the private sector while the former feels that the private sector is only concerned with making profits.

"This has always been an obstacle to closer co-operation. But after explaining why there should be co-operation, we have been able to slowly get the kind of co-operation that we need."

He said it was pointed out to members of the public sector that their salaries were being paid by the private sector.

"If the private sector is successful, then the Government will be able to pay better salaries. On the other hand, if it fails, tax collection will fall and it will be

difficult for the Government to pay the wages to the civil servants."

He said this kind of close co-operation between the two sectors made things easier for the private sector.

"What used to take many months or even years to get done, now takes much less time because of this close contact."

He said one of the fears harboured by the Government when it instituted the Malaysia Incorporated concept was that the private sector might get too close to Government officers and there might be some hanky-panky.

"But hanky-panky happens whether there is this closeness or not. We accept some abuses but, by and large, this closer co-operation is far better than the kind of confrontation that used to exist between the private and public sectors."

The public sector had been working very hard to service the private sector and had come up with various circulars and instructions to members of the public sector to ensure that they understood their roles.

He added that the client's charter was an undertaking by the public sector that it would provide effective service and the clients could now take it to task if there were any shortcomings.