

Greater input from all will ensure continued progress

# PM: More can be done

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By Jeffrey Ramayah

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Much more can be done to ensure continued progress and prosperity despite the encouraging economic performance, the Prime Minister said today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said while Malaysians could be proud of the nation's economic success they should not be complacent and satisfied because the responsibility to ensure continued economic growth rested with everyone.

He said towards that end, the Government has drawn up policies and the direction to be taken to develop industries, agriculture, tourism, science and technology and the environment.

Speaking at the investiture ceremony in conjunction with the birthday cele-

"We will also continue in our efforts to boost the capability of workers in terms of productivity, skills and competitiveness as the country's competitive edge now is only the lower labour cost compared with developed countries.

"Without our own technology, capital and a prosperous internal market, an increase in labour costs will erase our competitive edge," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was, therefore, important that our workers were not instigated by foreign labour unions to demand higher wages and make unnecessary claims.

Touching on economic performance, he said tourism promotion was one of the strategies to increase national income because this sector could create

ibrations of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah at the Istana Negara, he said the Government's success in managing the nation's economy well was the result of close co-operation among the Government, the people and the private sector.

Dr Mahathir said the Government would continue its efforts to bring further development to the people and take steps to keep the inflation rate low.

"Everyone must play an effective role to control inflation because the Government fears uncontrolled inflation will have a negative effect on the country.

"The people must play their part by being thrifty and cautious when spending and, while reducing unnecessary spending, they should also increase their savings," he said.

He said the country's workforce could help by not making excessive wage claims because any increase in salaries which did not match productivity would only result in inflation.

Dr Mahathir said if this happened, then the benefits of wage increases would be nullified.

He said the Government would not stop its efforts to attract foreign investors. It will continue to pursue liberal investment policies and improve infrastructure.

more employment, revenue and linkages with other sectors to develop the national economy.

Under the Sixth Malaysia Plan, the thrust of tourism development is to expand and diversify activities and tourism infrastructure.

"This is why the Government has declared next year as *Visit Malaysia 1994*," the Prime Minister said.

He said 1993 was an important year for the nation to strive harder to achieve the objective of making Malaysia a developed country.

"This aspiration can be achieved if all, such as the Government, the people and the private sector work and co-operate more closely.

"What is most important is a committed attitude towards the desire to fully develop Malaysia," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the people must be diligent and possess a high sense of discipline and dedication in carrying out their responsibilities.

He said the Government was proud of the deep concern shown by the King in government administration and the people's welfare.

He said the Government and the people also appreciated the King's keen interest in international relations and that his visits abroad had helped Malaysia to forge closer ties with the outside world.