

Help us fight inflation: PM

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By LEE KAR YEAN



KUALA LUMPUR: The Government has taken the necessary steps to control inflation but the people must also play their part by spending less and saving more. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

Stressing that uncontrolled inflation would have a negative impact on the country, the Prime Minister said workers could help by not demanding higher wages without matching it with higher productivity.

Liberal investment policies would be continued to attract investors, especially foreign-

ers, and to maintain a "competitive edge," the cost of labour should remain low compared with those of developed countries.

"Therefore, it is important that workers are not instigated by foreign workers' unions to demand for higher wages."

"Any salary increase which did not match productivity and efficiency would result in inflation," he said in his speech congratulating and pledging loyalty to the King in conjunction with his birthday and investiture ceremony at Istana Negara.

"We will continue with policies to reduce expenditure and

be thrifty concurrent with the revenue of the country," he said.

The economy, he said, had continued to show encouraging progress although its growth was slightly lower than that of last year.

He said it was heartening the inflation rate was low in relation to the high economic growth rate of the country.

The Government was aware it had much more to do to ensure the nation's continued progress and prosperity.

Towards this end, the Government had drawn up policies and the direction for development of important sectors like

industries, agriculture, tourism, environment as well as science and technology, he said.

He said under the Sixth Malaysia Plan, the thrust of tourism development was aimed at expanding and diversifying activities and tourism infrastructure.

This had resulted in the government's decision to organise Visit Malaysia Year 1994, he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the government was proud of the deep concern shown by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in the government administration and welfare of the people.