

Excellent plan

S 27 JUN 1993

PM: Govt to back Langkawi Project

By WONG CHUN WAI

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government will provide financial allocation to the Langkawi Project which Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad described as "an excellent plan" to raise the level of education in rural areas.

The Prime Minister announced this yesterday after opening the MCA's 40th annual general assembly at the Dewan San Choon, Wisma MCA.

Dr Mahathir said the MCA should be congratulated for its initiative in launching the plan as it would benefit people of all races.

The Government, he said, supported the plan and would work out the details of the financial allocation.

The MCA has through its fund-raising campaign set up 15 resource centres, including one in a Felda scheme in Malacca, and plans to set up at least 600 more such centres.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Barisan Nasional chairman, said the Cabinet had discussed the Langkawi Project and had agreed to the allocation.

"The plan is aimed at improving the proficiency in Ba-

hasa Malaysia among Chinese and Indian students in rural areas but other areas of education are also given attention. It is not just confined to the Chinese community but to all races, that is why the Government is supportive of the project," he added.

It was through such programmes, he said, that the Chinese community had now considered the MCA as a party that was capable of safeguarding its interest while taking into consideration the interest of other races.

"It is such attitude that has enabled Malaysia to continue to be peaceful and stable," he added.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir told MCA delegates that the bond of alliance among Barisan component parties in the coalition was permanent.

Saying there was no alternative to the Barisan, Dr Mahathir said the Barisan concept had been successfully tested.

"The Barisan had proved its ability in uniting people of all races and in managing the country's economy effectively," he added.

● **TURN TO PAGE 3**

Opposition forms only 'flimsy alliances'

FROM PAGE ONE

The **Barisan**, he said was not like the opposition parties, which only formed pacts on the eve of general elections and dismantled soon afterwards as they parted.

Describing these pacts as fakes, Dr Mahathir said such pacts failed because of the insincerity and selfishness of their leaders.

He said the fact that many developing nations and international organisations were keen to learn the Barisan way of running a multi-racial and multi-religious Malaysia was testimony of the coalition's effective administration.

"We admit that once in a while we have a minor ripple such as the recent case of **Usno** colluding with the opposition, but such action does not affect Barisan's position."

Dr Mahathir said it had in fact strengthened the Barisan, which could not afford to have its component parties led by people who put self above national and the people's interests.

He said there were groups who criticised for the sake of criticising although they, too, had benefited from government projects.

"When these programmes or projects later proved successful and are acknowledged by the world, they still refuse to accept the reality," he added.

Elaborating on such critics, he said when Malaysia first announced its national car project, it was strongly criticised, saying that the nation was incapable of making quality cars.

The project had, however, turned out to be a success which

had generated ancillary industries with its spin-off effects.

Dr Mahathir said foreigners doubted Malaysia's **capability** in attaining developed-nation status.

"They know that although Malaysia is a small country, the effect of its success has been felt by them in various areas," he said.

The Prime Minister urged Malaysians to be confident of their ability as confidence alone was only half the prerequisite for success.

Confidence however, he said, should not be confused with arrogance because Malaysia's confidence was based on realistic objectives, adding that the Vision 2020 goal was set after a thorough study.

Emphasising the need for racial harmony, Dr Mahathir said it was

important to maintain the country's political stability.

It was important for the various communities not to act in a manner that undermined stability.

Dr Mahathir urged the Chinese community to continue giving their support to the MCA as it had proven its capability in safeguarding the community's interest without resorting to extremism like the DAP.

Also present were MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and his deputy Datuk S. Subramaniam, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and his vice-president Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu deputy president Datuk **Abang** Abu Bakar **Mustapha** and Parti Bansa Dayak Bersatu president Datuk Leo **Mogie**.