

Innovative and resourceful private sector also vital

# PM: Nation needs people' with ideas

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IPOH, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia needs people with ideas and skills, who, together with an efficient and sincere administration, would be able to take the country to greater heights of achievement.

The Prime Minister said the country also needed managers who are resourceful and a private sector who is both innovative and progressive.

Speaking at a state banquet attended by representatives from the Perak Barisan Nasional here tonight, Dr Mahathir said the country has reaped much benefits from the various development plans.

He said that the country's achievements were not the result of any single factor, but rather a combination of factors. Topping these factors are the political stability and harmonious relations among the various communities, he said.

Dr Mahathir is here for a two-day visit. He will

launch the *Kampung Ku* programme in Tapah, about 60km from here tomorrow.

The Prime Minister said these achievements must be maintained and consolidated. In fact, greater efforts must be made to further enhance the present level of tolerance so that progress could be enjoyed for many more years to come.

"We are able to have this dinner because we have good relations . . . unlike some other countries where racial strife is the order of the day," he said.

"In some of these countries, social disorder is widespread because traditional good values are no longer preserved. Some of these nations even had their own empire and spheres of influence worldwide . . . but they have all gone."

The Prime Minister said Malaysians should work harder to expand the economic cake. The country must continue to grow so that its wealth could be extended on a wider scale, he said.

He said: "We must strive to improve. We must maintain what we have, and then consolidate our achieve-

ments. We must not make the mistakes made by others in the past. If we always remember our humble beginnings, then we have a better chance of sustained success.

"We must not be complacent because complacency would lead to our downfall. There are enough examples of that in the world."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was 'now being looked upon as a successful country, worthy of emulation. Such success did not come overnight, he said, adding that careful planning and sheer hard work were partly responsible for this progress.

"Therefore, we must ensure that the country's political stability be maintained . . . that the country's fair and efficient Government be maintained.

"We must continue to remind ourselves that we are working for our children and grandchildren," the Prime Minister said.

While commending Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri

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'Fortunate Perak is not solely dependent on tin'

FROM PAGE ONE  
Ramli Ngah Talib for his effort in helping the State develop further, Dr Mahathir said that it was fortunate that the State did not depend solely on tin for its revenue.

If this had been the case, Perak would probably be a poor State today. Just like the national economy, diversification and efficient administration have helped it to show much progress and prosperity.

Earlier today, Dr Mahathir visited the Chemor ceramic park, 16km north of Ipoh.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by Ramli and several Cabinet Ministers and State dignitaries. The Prime Minister spent about an hour visiting the various handicraft stalls.

He was given a briefing by Encik Harun Ahmad Saruji, the chief executive of the State Economic Development Corporation which is responsible for the park.

Harun said there were 83 manufacturers of ceramic items, including 63 Bumiputera entrepreneurs producing traditional items like the *labu sayong* and *buyong*.

Most of the products were exported. Based on the records of the Perak Ceramic Association, the value of exports last year was RM25 million.

A total of 1,156ha had been allocated for the Chemor ceramic park, 78ha of which had been developed where a number of ceramic manufacturers are in operation, operating.

On his arrival at the Sultan Azlan Shah airport in Ipoh, Dr Mahathir was met by about 3,666 members of BN component parties.

The aircraft touched down at the airport at 3pm. Ramli led a group of political leaders and senior government officers to welcome the Prime Minister and his party as they alighted.

Also present were Datuk Bandar Datuk Ismail Shah Bodin and a number of State Executive Councillors.

After a short rest, Dr Mahathir emerged from the VIP lounge to the loud beats of the *kompangs*.

The crowd, with flags and banners, had lined both sides of the red carpet from the lounge in the terminal building to the waiting car at the porch.

Dr Mahathir later held a meeting with State Umno division heads.