

Malaysia needs people with ideas, says Dr M

22 JUL 1993

IPOH: Malaysia needs people with ideas who are efficient, bright and honest to exploit its resources to develop the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said although peace was a key factor for development, the aspect of human resource development should also be given emphasis to achieve progress.

"We need groups like administrators who are efficient and honest and have ideas as well as a brilliant private sector which has ideas to develop the country's economy," he said at a dinner here in conjunction with his two-day official visit to Perak.

A country's richness in natural resources was a plus factor but it needed people who have ideas to turn these resources into tangible benefits, he said.

He said if Malaysia had continued to depend on natural resources like tin it would have become poor because of the price crash suffered by the commodity.

"But thank God, we had shifted to industrial de-

velopment before the tin market fell," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia could still succeed without natural resources as long as the people were moderate in their thinking, good to each other and acted in beneficial ways.

It was better to concentrate on the wealth that could be distributed among the people than to focus on the limited natural resources which would eventually cause the people to fight among themselves, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the people should preserve the racial harmony which had brought development to the country and led to the setting up of a multi-racial government.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir was met on arrival at the Sultan Azlan Shah airport by about 2,500 Barisan Nasional component party members.

Mentri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib and state executive councillors then accompanied the Prime Minister to the country's first Ceramic Park in Chemor where he was briefed on its development.