

Dr M: Politics and the economy are inseparable

NST 24 JUL 1993

By Jeffrey Ramayah

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk sion and show a sense of mission when carrying out their duties.

separated because they were interdependent. The wellbeing of one of them will contribute to the wellbeing of the other, the Prime Minister said tonight.

Generally, a nation which is managed well and economically sound tends to be more stable, he said. Similarly, political stability will facilitate further economic growth, he added.

Speaking at the Administrative and Diplomatic Services Association dinner, Dr Mahathir said understanding between political leaders, administrators and corporate leaders was important in efforts to develop the country.

Managers entrusted with the job of managing the country should always be committed and creative in meeting today's challenges. They should also be efficient and hardworking when carrying out their

duties, he said. The Prime Minister said they must also possess vision and show a sense of mission when carrying out their duties.

He added that managers and administrators had to understand the relationship between politics and the economy as this would enable them to provide good administration which could in turn help the nation grow economically and maintain political stability.

He said another factor that could determine a country's success was the role played by the administrators and the private sector. Traditionally the administrators managed everything, including the private sector.

Hence, the administrators attitude to the private sector is confined to that. They enforce laws and regulations. What is given priority is the laws and regulations, not the interest of the private sector, he said.

He said that it was the belief that laws and regulations were for the good of society and the nation.

That they may impede businesses and industry did not get the administrators attention, he said.

Dr Mahathir said relationship between the administrators and the private sector was not encouraged. Therefore, the cooperation between the two was not there.

The Prime Minister added that the success and wealth of a nation depend on the success of the business sector. The private sector not only has to pay taxes to the Government but their activities

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will help in "money circulation" which will in turn create employment opportunities and activate the economy.

He said money that was unused would not bring any benefit, and businessmen and entrepreneurs activate money. "Without them economic growth will not be possible."

He said it was necessary to have cooperation between the Government, the administration and the pri-

private sector and this would create a healthy commercial climate

Dr Mahathir said the concept of Malaysia Incorporated was towards achieving this objective. Even though this could give rise to abuses, the benefits derived are far more than the negative possibilities, he said.

He added that it was not possible to quantify the benefits from the Malaysia Incorporated concept. Nevertheless, the fact is that the country's economic growth has been higher after it was launched than before

Another factor which contributes to national success is organisation. The Prime Minister said the country now valued the ability to get things organised and structured.

Administrators and managers must realise this, he said. Efforts to organise and restructure are unlimited, he said, adding that countries which wanted to succeed must keep on improving their organisational structure and operations.