

Fairness has led to peace and stability, says PM

NST 14 AUG 1993

By Saiful Azhar Abdullah

JITRA, Fri. — The peace and stability prevailing in Malaysia is the result of the Government being fair towards all the communities including undertaking balanced development programmes, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said this has brought development to the country and provided the people with many economic opportunities.

He said the Government safeguards the interests of its multiracial population and has managed to sustain the peaceful situation with a strong surge in economic growth because it has been fair to all the communities.

Speaking to residents at the Dewan Jitra here today, during his one-day visit to the State, he said the May 1969 racial riots had taught Malaysia a lesson that preferential treatment would not result in peace and stability.

He stressed that there was no necessity for the Government to restrict the development of other communities to enhance Bumiputera participation in the economy because there was plenty of opportunities and all the communities could co-operate to take advantage of

them!

He said Bumi uteras could also do business because it was not difficult to start a business and added that those who failed were those who were unable to contain their greed.

He said there were plenty of business opportunities and the Government encouraged business on franchise because it was an easy way for a person to start a business.

He said the country's economic growth was so intense that workers were enjoying better salaries.

Also present at the meeting were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff and state Executive Councillors Datuk Zakaria Said, Datuk Aziz Taib and Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain.

He said the country could achieve greater heights if the people continued working together in all fields.

He said Malaysians should be grateful that they had a peaceful and stable country unlike other multiracial nations which were beset with racial problems.

He pointed out that Malaysia was being considered a "heaven" by some nations and this was evident from the exodus of foreign citizens who were willing to "risk their lives to come to Malaysia for good".

"We should be grateful

that we are living in peace, there is no chaos, no revolt and no threat from the communists.

"Unfortunately, we sometimes tend to forget to be grateful for living in peace," he added.

He said the strong economic growth enjoyed by the people were the fruits of the effort put in by the Government to strengthen the economy.

"We have successfully outlined policies to industrialise the country and we are seeing the fruits of the efforts. The manufacturing industries are mushrooming and our children are benefitting with thousands of job opportunities available for them," he added.

He said the success of the Government in spurring the country's economy had produced many successful Bumiputera entrepreneurs.

He said the Malaya should be proud that there were Malay entrepreneurs who owned aircraft companies, banks and hotels.

"There are also Malay businessmen owning properties abroad like in Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands."

He said every citizen must grab every opportunity available in the country.

However, he said sometimes the people made the mistake of choosing Pas to

rule a State like Kelantan.

He added that for three years Pas had been in power in Kelantan and their leader had admitted failing to develop the State.

"They had made promises during elections including promising to implement the 'hudud' laws but so far nothing has been done.

"Now they said it is all right not to fulfil these promises. We want to see what promises they are going to make to the people in the coming general election."

He said Malaysia's economy would continue to improve and the country would remain stable although there would be a contest in Umno in the coming elections.

"But that is democracy, after the contest it will be back to normal.

"Do not be like Pas members, after the defeat they segregate themselves from others."

Later Dr Mahathir inspected the progress of the Kubang Pasu library. He also visited the newly-opened shoplots here.

The Prime Minister performed the Friday prayers at Masjid Pulau Ketam and then inspected the progress of the development of the Pedu dam..