

# Strive for excellence, Dr M urges Malaysians

By LOKMAN MANSOR

MALAYSIANS should strive for excellence and make good work habits become part of the Malaysian culture, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said because man is a creature of habit, developing good work habits will yield positive results. Bad ones will lead to bad results and poor performance.

"We want to achieve excellence, and this can be done by making a habit of all efforts that can help us reach that target," Dr Mahathir said.

Speaking at the presentation of excellence service awards to staff of the Home Ministry in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, he said: "Whatever we do must be aimed at achieving the highest level of excellence. When these procedures are repeated, they will become part of our personality."

Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, said when a particular process is constantly repeated, it is unavoidable that the person will eventually be good at it. "If we always do something to achieve excellence and efficiency, then sooner or later we will become excellent and efficient."

When doing something for the first time, he added, it is common to find that the work is slow and mistakes are made. Through repeti-

KEDAH'S decision to scrap the Jerai International Park project was a wise move as many people, particularly the land owners in the area were against it, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

It is not the government's policy to do something against the wishes of the people. "If they (the people) agree, then it is okay," he told reporters after presenting service excellence awards to Home Ministry staff in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

tion, however, the worker is able to do the job faster and with fewer errors.

He said anything new that is learned can always be improved, and there is no need to wait for a new system or equipment before doing this. "At any time, one can find ways to improve the work. Identify weaknesses, fix them, and soon there will not be any more errors."

Efficient administration is important to a country's development, as evident by how it has helped Malaysia become one of the fastest growing developing countries.

Dr Mahathir said: "Even when compared to developed countries, we see that Malaysia is not that far behind. This is possible because we have an administration that is able to handle new pressures and responsibilities that come with being an independent country.

"Nevertheless, we cannot be satisfied. We must work harder so that our administration is of utmost efficiency. We do not want any delay if we can speed up the process and achieve an excel-

lent level of work," he added.

Dr Mahathir presented service excellence awards to 46 staff from the Home Ministry, three from the Registration of Societies Department and two from the Civil Defence Department.

Speaking to reporters later he said the Philippine proposal to set up a North Asian Development Area comprising Luzon, Taiwan, Hong Kong/southern China and Okinawa (Japan) is their right and would not affect any project carried out by Malaysia.

"That is their plan. We also have our own plans," he said.

On a directive by Barisan Nasional secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat for all component parties to prepare for a general election, Dr Mahathir said the preparations usually take two years. The Government has until December 1995 to call for the election.

"We are preparing ourselves so that we can surprise (them) at any time. I hope the opposition parties can make preparations and make huge investments for the election," he said.