

BN concept has proven successful, says Dr M

By Jeffrey Ramayah

SEREMBAN, Sat. — The Barisan Nasional concept has proven to be successful in uniting its component parties and enhancing co-operation among the communities thereby enabling the country to achieve rapid economic growth, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said it is important for the people to have full confidence in the BN Government's capability in managing and administering the country efficiently.

Opening the 41st MIC general assembly at Tafe college, Dr Mahathir said the country's achievements

were not confined to economic success but also in education and social development.

"All these have been made possible because the Barisan Nasional Government has been able to practise democratic principles which give emphasis to fairness.

"The Barisan Nasional is certainly a coalition of parties which takes into consideration the interests of all communities," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was therefore important to strengthen the unique

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Better efficiency with privatisation

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BN political institution so that the country could continue to enjoy harmony among the various communities and rapid development.

Also present at the ceremony were the Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik

and leaders of the other Barisan Nasional component parties. The assembly is being attended by 1,250 delegates.

On privatisation, the Prime Minister said the Government had provided the opportunity for the people to venture into new fields and to invest wisely.

"There are allegations that privatisation has benefited only big companies and those who are close to the leadership of the coun-

try.

"I have explained this at various forums in the past and I would like to stress that these allegations are untrue.

"Privatisation programmes have been successful in development efforts which possibly could not have been undertaken by the Government."

Dr Mahathir said 120 projects had been privatised. He said they had contributed towards improvement in

efficiency and productivity.

He said privatisation had resulted in increased capital in the stock market by RM10.8 billion.

"The Government has managed to save RM5 billion in operating expenditure and RM40.5 billion in development expenditure through the privatisation of Government entities.

"A total of 92,000 Government employees have opted for the private sector and are earning much more."