

Dr M: Co-operation among all Malaysians key to prosperity, stab

# A nation of team players

**By Rashid Yusof**

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the stability and prosperity in the country do not come naturally and that these aims are achieved through planning, management and co-operation by all Malaysians.

The co-operation came from the Government, employers, workers and the people as a whole, the Prime Minister said.

There will not be stability and prosperity if one quarter does not co-operate.

In this respect, everybody was important and no one party could, on its own, ensure the stability and prosperity of the country without which all would suffer, he said in his Workers' Day message.

"If we accept this fact, no one will deliberately do anything which can harm or jeopardise the situation in this country.

"There is no reason why we cannot maintain stability and prosperity in the country if we are willing to carry out our respective roles with full responsibility."

He said close co-operation involving the Government, workers and employers was needed to achieve the strategy of increasing the level of income without raising the cost of living.

To the Government, it enables continuation in policies and approaches which have greatly benefited the people, including the workers.

Dr Mahathir said the people, on their part, were confident that the future of the country was in the hands of those with a sound track record.

"To the investors, foreign and local, the same Government guarantees that policies do not change or are replaced, and this facilitates dealings with the Government and in carrying out commercial activities," he said.

He said the Government's efforts to promote investment had succeeded in increasing jobs.

This has eradicated unemployment, creating a situation where jobs chase workers instead of the other way round.

This has also led to better wages without any pressure from the workers or trade unions.

The fact that there is no industrial action has improved the investment climate.

Once again, there will be more investment and with it improved benefits for workers.

Dr Mahathir reminded workers that high wages should come with increased productivity.

1 MAY 1995

Every problem and misunderstanding among affected parties should be resolved peacefully, and there should not be any actions detrimental to the current objective.

He said in every industrial action, employers, workers and the Government, along with the consumers, would lose.

The best solution to disputes was to have them adjudicated by a third party, whose decision should be respected and adhered to by all, he said.

On the mandate given to the Barisan Nasional Government in the just-concluded general election, he said it carried a clear message — that the people wanted continuity in the Government and in its policies, so that stability and rapid development could be continued.

The Prime Minister said continuity was important to everybody.

If there is no similar increase in productivity, production costs will rise until they become no longer profitable to investors, leading to a drop in investment and wage increase stoppages.

He said the Government's strategy was to raise the level of income without a corresponding increase in the cost of living.

Done by curbing inflation, this strategy will ensure that Malaysian goods remain competitive.

Apart from its impact on the ability to compete globally, an increase in wages that is not met with a rise in productivity will also push up inflation.

He said this meant the higher wages could not be spent on more items as before.

He said payment of bonuses and other incentives by

PLEASE TURN TO  
PAGE 6, COL 2

## Important to keep inflation down, reminds Dr M

FROM PAGE ONE

the public and private sectors on the back of seven straight years of fast growth has increased workers' purchasing capacity.

One month's bonus was equivalent to an 8.3 per cent jump in a person's annual

income, he said, adding that the increase in purchasing power was made possible by a low inflation rate of 3.5 per cent.

On the other hand, the bonus will be meaningless if the inflation rate stood at 8.3 per cent.

Therefore, Dr Mahathir

said it was very important for inflation to be curbed and, if possible, kept at zero level.

He said the country's aim was to sustain economic growth at seven per cent annually while further reducing inflation.

Dr Mahathir said that cel-

ebration of Workers' Day was to recognise the workers' role in society and country.

He added that the welfare of workers would always have to be upheld and that progress would be meaningless if the workers did not enjoy the benefits.