

Dr Mahathir: Federal Government sincere in wanting to develop State

MIRI, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Federal Government has proven its sincere commitment to Sarawak in wanting to develop it using all the resources at its disposal.

The Prime Minister said in the past there were people who held the notion that the Federal Government did not give due attention to Sarawak, but such feelings have ended since it has been revealed that the Federal Government was sincere in wanting to bring development to the State.

Addressing the crowd who gathered at the Miri Airport to greet him, Dr Mahathir added that even from the early days, the Federal Government was happy that Sarawak chose to become independent through Malaysia.

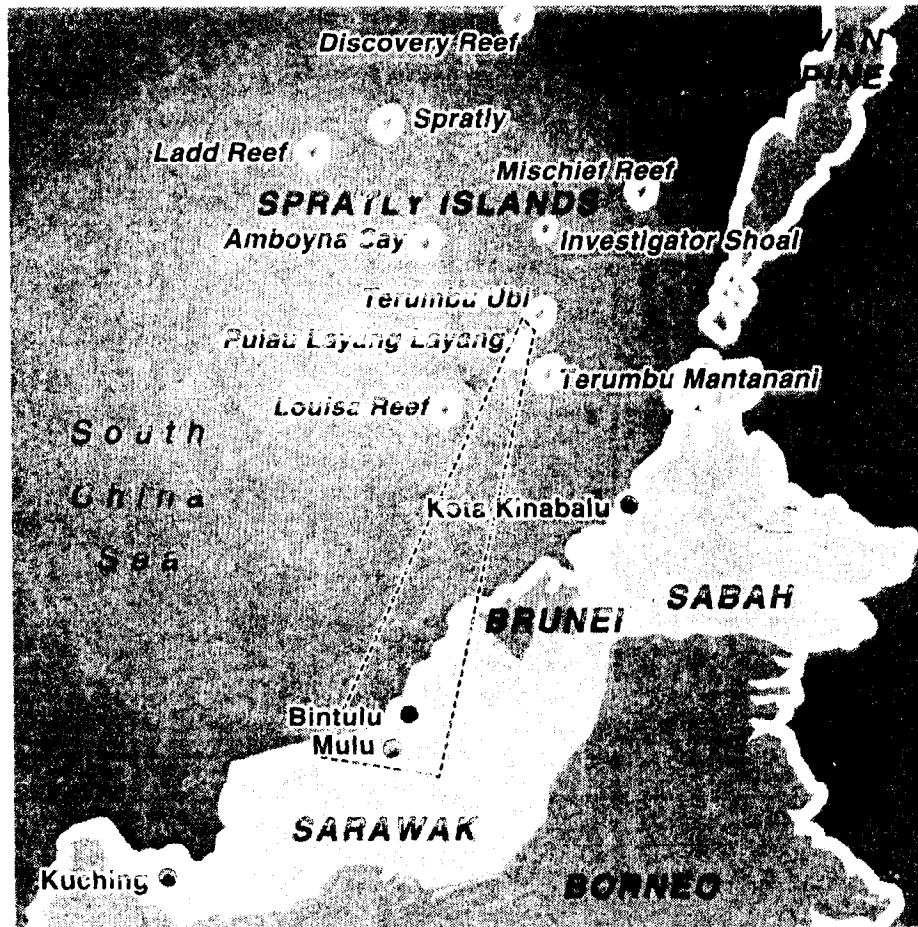
The Prime Minister visited Miri on his way to Mulu here and Pulau Layang-Layang in Sabah.

He said the Government has also proven that it did not practise racial discrimination, as the various races and people of different religious background co-existed peacefully.

Dr Mahathir added that the equitable progress savoured by the various races meant one group would not be jealous of the other.

He said successful non-Bumiputera businessmen have been accommodative of the Bumiputera in giving them room and opportunity to improve their livelihood.

Dr Mahathir said as a re-



sponsible Government, it would bring further progress and it would see to it that the people would not regret giving it a big mandate in the recently concluded general election.

Emphasis in bringing development will also be given to the rural areas, including the longhouses.

He also advised civil servants not to criticise the Government for not paying

them higher salaries as compared with private sector employees. He added that if the country developed further and more taxes were collected, higher salaries could be paid to them.