

# We must strengthen ties, Dr M tells Peru

From Ahmad A. Talib in Lima

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia and Peru should strive for tangible economic co-operation, stronger trade ties and a deeper level of political and cultural relations.

The Prime Minister said he was convinced that this could be done. "The potential is already there and we must press ahead to exploit it to the fullest for our mutual benefit."

Dr Mahathir said this at a luncheon hosted by Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori here yesterday. This was the Prime Minister's sixth assignment since his arrival on Thursday for a five-day official visit.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir had a breakfast meeting with Peruvian businessmen, placed a wreath before the national monument, held bilateral talks with Fujimori and several ministers, and witnessed the signing of several bilateral agreements.

The Prime Minister said: "Today, we have jointly taken a major step forward in our relations with the signing of several important agreements, covering trade, the promotion and protection of investments, air services, the partial abolition of visa requirements and cultural co-operation."

"These agreements would certainly provide a suitable framework to encourage greater co-operation between our respective peoples."

He said that in the final analysis, the success of economic co-operation between nations rests upon the decision made not by the Government but by the private sector.

"To our respective private sectors, I say that the future of the relations between our two countries is largely in your hands. The responsibility is great but I am sure that you will rise to the challenge," Dr Mahathir said.

He added that tangible economic linkages would also provide further impetus to co-operation among developing countries. "There is much that we can do for one another. There is much that we can learn from each other," he said.

The Prime Minister also paid tribute to Fujimori's success in Peru, saying that the people of Malaysia saluted him.

Dr Mahathir said: "Many countries are quick to condemn developing countries when we do not live up to their expectations and definitions of democracy."

"But they have only to look into the faces of people who yearn for the opportunity to make a decent living, who desire to dream great things for their children and to live in peace and stability to understand that what works for one country may not work for another."

"There are times when tough decisions have to be made. That is what leadership is all about."

"I congratulate you for

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Ⓟ Mahathir Mohamad

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## Democracy is means to an end, says Dr M

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standing firm when confronted by those in the international community who are so free with their criticisms without understanding that democracy is not an end in itself but the means to an end.

"And the end that we seek is stability and freedom from fear. If democracy in its liberal form can deliver that, well and good. But if liberal democracy only results in insecurity, fear and poverty, then democracy must be tempered with responsibility so that it delivers what it is supposed to deliver."

"You, Mr President, have dared to face reality, to take the bull by the horns. The result is there for all to see."

The Prime Minister said that in recent years, Peru has featured prominently in the international Press. Happily the reports have not been about bombs or terrorism but about economic growth, surging exports, increasing foreign investments and a new sense of purpose and direction, he added.

He said: "Peru's recent achievements in the political, economic and social fields have been widely acknowledged and are indeed commendable. Peruvians have clearly indicated in the elections last April that you deserve the credit for this and should be given a mandate to lead Peru into the 21st century."

"I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate my heartiest congratulations."