

Dr M: We'll do it ourselves ⁵⁷

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will strive to achieve its ambition to become a developed nation on its own and will not seek foreign help to do so, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Stressing that Malaysia has every right to such an aspiration, the Prime Minister said there was no need for any country to be envious of its achievements.

"We are not even asking anything from anybody in pursuing that ambition.

"We have no intention of annoying anybody. In fact, people

in developed countries have been benefiting from our efforts to develop our country.

"This is because we produce cheap but high quality goods," he said at the Federal Territory meet-the-people gathering at Taman Tasik Titiwangsa yesterday. The gathering saw a large turnout of people from the various races.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was not greedy with its wealth of resources as it had accepted foreign investments to create job opportunities for the people.

At the same time, he said Ma-

laysia had helped poorer countries by providing them financial aid, training and emergency relief.

Emphasising the principle of prosperity-neighbour, he said Malaysia was willing to help others although it was not a rich country and had helped countries as far away as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mozambique and Angola.

"This is what Malaysia has done as a multiracial nation. From a poor country, we developed ourselves to the extent that we are capable of helping other nations," he said, adding

that Malaysia had become a model for other developing countries.

The Prime Minister said the world should have recognised Malaysia's contributions but some foreigners were trying to reduce it to poverty.

"We are not as strong or as rich as they are but if we close ranks and stand united, even a formidable enemy will back off."

Reminding the people that Malaysia had emerged stronger after the 1969 riots, Dr Mahathir said success was achieved because all Malay-

sians had agreed to resolve their differences.

He said that despite foreigners' predictions that Malaysia would never progress, the people's commitment to develop the country had made it more successful compared with other nations.

"All these were achieved through our own efforts without any help from foreigners. This is our own success in managing our multiracial society.

"That is why racial unity is of utmost importance for us to maintain our independence and sovereignty."