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Govt to hold firm to NEP principles: PM

THE success of the New Economic Policy (NEP), whose basic thrusts are to eradicate poverty and distribute wealth fairly, has made it possible for continued peace in Malaysia despite the economic crisis, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Government will therefore hold firm to the principles of the NEP for national development, even though there are some among the Malays themselves who have criticised the policy, he added.

Speaking at the Malay Contractors' Association of Malaysia annual general meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Dr Mahathir said these people had accused the Government of having created the NEP for cronies or families of national leaders.

However, the fact is that the NEP has not only benefitted all Malays but has prevented the kind of riots that have taken place in some countries during the crisis, he said.

"We have fairly distributed the wealth among Malaysians and this has prevented incidences such as riots during difficult times," he added.

The association later conferred on Dr Mahathir the title of "Father of Modern Malaysia".

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