

12 JUN 1998

Mahathir - problems

PEACE, SOLIDARITY RECIPE FOR RECOVERY, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA TERENGGANU, June 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said the prevailing peace in the country and solid backing of the masses will see Malaysia through the current economic problems.

Dr Mahathir said notwithstanding these problems, the government has managed development in an orderly manner by not borrowing from abroad, unlike some other countries.

"A country heavily indebted to another will find itself unable to repay the loans and as such has to bow to the demands of foreign powers," he said speaking briefly to a gathering before attending a briefing on water management at the Kepong treatment plant here.

The briefing was given by the Terengganu Water Works director Wan Ngah Wan Ali.

Dr Mahathir said with the people's strong and solid support the nation would preserve its independence from whatever form of external pressures applied to other developing countries.

The prime minister said the federal and state governments would ensure that the people get as much facilities as possible without neglecting those in the rural areas.

The government would see to it that the country's wealth would be shared by the people of all levels, he said.

Earlier, the prime minister was met on arrival at the Sultan Mahmud Airport in Telaga Batin by Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, state dignitaries, department heads and the public.

Dr Mahathir and entourage immediately left for the Kepong water treatment plant.

Upon arrival at the junction leading to the plant, he was escorted by 1,000 motorcycle outriders comprising Umno Youth members for the 1.6km trip there.

-- BERNAMA

SBJ NMO rn