

PM: We're
willing ⁴³
to explain

recovery
~~28 SEP 1999~~

KANGAR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia is willing to explain how it was successful in turning around the economy after it was almost annihilated by the economic crisis in 1997.

He said a country must have certain advantages or strengths in order to carry out measures to revive the economy.

"We can explain to them how we revived the economy if they are interested, but they must have certain existing foundations and required factors if they expect to succeed," he told a press conference at the end of his two-day visit to Perlis yesterday.

He was asked to comment on the interest of certain countries in knowing more about Malaysia's efforts to successfully revive the economy after it was hit badly by the crisis.

One condition was to have a strong government as no measures would succeed without it (a strong government), he added.

To a question on East Timor, Dr Mahathir hoped that war would not break out on the island.

He said that war would not bring any good to anybody and would not settle anything.

"I have never believed war as a way of settling anything. Indonesia had agreed on the UN-sponsored ballot on Aug 30 and all should accept the outcome," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian forces would be under the United Nation when an actual peacekeeping force was set up.

He said the Malcon-Timur was not a peacekeeping force but an initiative of certain nations, adding that they were allowed to do so by the UN.