

# Anyone can succeed, says Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Barisan Nasional Government's policy of equal opportunity for all races ensures that anyone can succeed, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said

this was irrespective of the size of the community concerned.

He said the only requirements for success were dedication, creativity, hard work and innovation.

"This success is not dependent on whether the race is large in number or not. The success or effectiveness of a race does not depend on its population,"

he said at the opening of the 53rd delegates' conference of the MIC at Putra World Trade Centre.

He said there were many professionals such as engineers, doctors and lawyers among Indians, adding that between 1995 and 1997, the percentage of Indian professionals in these fields increased by 23.4 per cent (1,416 to 2,155), 12.1 per cent

(3,069 to 3,856) and 11.1 per cent (1,591 to 1,965) respectively.

"Many professional bodies are controlled by Indians and they are active and aggressive. This is one example where the BN Government gives wide opportunities to all races to succeed in any field of their choice.

"In our country, those

who are clever enough to grab the opportunities made available by the Government while being dedicated, hard working, creative and innovative will surely achieve great success regardless of whether their race has a big or small population."

□ PLEASE TURN TO  
PAGE 5, COL 1

## 'Barisan has shown capability to govern'

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□ FROM PAGE ONE

He said the BN Government had shown its capability in governing the country effectively and justly, particularly in tackling the recent economic crisis.

Despite being attacked and criticised by various groups, including international bodies such as the International Monetary Fund which were supported by opposition parties, the BN Government had brought the country out of the economic woes, he said.

"If economic recovery had been attempted by a weak government, even though the efforts could succeed, the attacks by the

opposition parties and their friends overseas would have made them difficult and caused failure.

"However, because the BN has a good majority in Parliament and the support of the majority of the people, Government efforts were not disrupted and became successful."

He said attempts by certain groups to subvert the Government's efforts through street riots also failed because of the loyalty of all BN component parties.

"This is the good that results from giving a large majority to the BN. Without such a majority, the Government may fall and a government more willing

to bow to foreign powers will take over and surrender the country to these powers," he said.

Dr Mahathir warned the people to be wary of treacherous elements within and without the country.

"We must constantly be wary of them, including opposition parties which are trying to win our hearts and minds with sweet promises.

"This group will promise the mountain although it knows it cannot fulfil those promises because it has admitted it will not be able to form the government after the general election."

Dr Mahathir said it was not easy to govern a country justly and fairly while

also taking care of the "hearts" of each race.

"It is not easy to ensure that each race, with its different socio-economic background and cultural mores, is not left out in the stream of development. It is not easy to govern a multi-racial country because the needs of each race are different.

"If the opposition coalition is imperfect even at this early stage, it will be impossible for it to overcome the problems of a multi-racial nation. Therefore, the Indian community must continue to support the BN," he said.