

KL 30 NOV 1977  
KUALA LUMPUR,

Wed. — Tun Abdul Razak has appointed former MP Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed as chairman of Food and Industries of Malaysia. (Fima).

Dr. Mahathir who succeeds the present chairman Encik Jamil Jan, will take over the new appointment on Jan. 1.

In a statement today, Tun Razak said Primary Industries Minister Datuk Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud agreed to the appointment.

### Investments

It will enable Encik Jamil to devote more time to encourage investments in industries.

Besides Encik Jamil, who is also chairman of the Malaysian Rubber Development Corporation (MRDC) will be able to work for the betterment of rubber smallholders, the statement added.

Dr. Mahathir, who is also a member of the Umno supreme council commenting on the appointment said as the new chairman he is open to criticism.

"I have been quite critical. Now is the time for people to criticise me."

Dr. Mahathir said: "I have a vague idea of what I plan to do. For the moment, however, I hope to study all the food industries in the country.

"I like to know what kind of foods we import and see whether they can be produced locally.

### Part-time job

"I also hope to improve the life of the rural people and provide more employment as aimed by Fima."

Dr. Mahathir told reporters in Alor Star that the appointment would be a part-time job.

"I have accepted it because it conforms with the Second Malaysia Plan."

"Moreover, it is one of the government agencies for implementing the Plan, aimed at reducing poverty and creating a more equitable society."

Dr. Mahathir pointed out that Fima was concerned with promoting food production and processing in areas where private enterprises might not find it so profitable.

In doing so, Fima might be able to increase employment and possibly help people in the rural areas to earn extra income, he said.

Fima has just gone into the pineapple canning industry. It planned to start a cashew nut processing project next year.

Fima a government-owned company with an authorised capital of \$50 million was set up last year.

Its objectives include:

**ACCELERATING** the pace of rural industrialisation programme towards creating more employment opportunities for rural people; and

**DEVELOPING** and expanding food processing industries using locally-produced raw materials both for export and local markets.