

Bahasa CAN be used in science: Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sunday.

EDUCATION MINISTER Dr. Mahathir

Mohamed has called for greater use of Bahasa Malaysia in scientific activities, including publications and seminars.

He said: "It has often been said that the language lacked sophistication to such an extent that it would not be able to catch up with the standard achieved by English, German or Russian."

"But a glance at the rapid development of all branches of science in Japan and China in our time casts some doubt on the contention that Asiatic languages are incapable of scientific sophistication."

Dr. Mahathir was speaking at a dinner organised by the Malaysian Bio-Chemistry Association at Hotel Equatorial here last night.

He said that although English was more suitable in the field of high-

er studies, "Bahasa Malaysia will not be widely used, unless we take the first step now".

Future roles

He, however, added that English must be treated as a very important second language.

The Minister also called on universities to accept the challenges of modern society and fulfil the country's manpower needs.

"While being proud of our past achievements, universities should prepare for their future roles.

He hoped that students joining universities would understand that they had specific

objectives which would help them plan their future.

Dr. Mahathir noted that "knowledge serves as the source of power today, in contrast to land and capital in the bygone days."

"Education is not merely to attain knowledge, but, more important, the students must be able to recognise problems and analyse them and to make resolutions," he said.