

MAHATHIR: TIME TEACHERS HAD CODE OF ETHICS

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KUALA LUMPUR Fri. — Education Minister Dr. Mahathir said today it was time teachers had a code of ethics.

He said such a code would be a uniform guide and cover all teachers in Malaysia.

Dr. Mahathir was speaking at the Dewan Tunku Abdul Rahman here to mark Teachers' Day which is being celebrated throughout Malaysia today.

"I believe such a code will raise the image and status of teachers if it is followed with total awareness and honesty" he said.

Dr. Mahathir added

that the theme of this year's celebrations—The Teacher and Nation-Building—was appropriate and would clarify the concept of nation-building among teachers.

"Nation - building is very important because through this process, the Government intends to make this country a democratic, advancing, prosperous, united and peaceful nation."

He said the Government would not run away from its responsibility of providing education for the people.

"Education was allocated \$1,287 million or about 18.4 per cent of

the year's budget. This big slice of the budget should facilitate our achievement of our development objectives.

"In this matter, teachers have a very important role to play as a large part of the Government's faith is placed upon them to prepare the foundations of education and skilled manpower for the future."

Dr. Mahathir urged teachers to equip themselves with modern education methods.

He also said that teachers should work closely with parents.

On conditions pertaining to the profession, Dr. Mahathir said the

Education Ministry was examining closely the various claims of the teachers.

"These demands are being investigated thoroughly so that the resulting implications would not oppose the principles of the teaching service and give rise to more problems which would complicate the accomplishment of our educational needs."

Dr. Mahathir hoped that these demands would not lower the standard of the teaching service as it would affect the children and in the end hinder the development of the country.