

PETALING JAYA, Monday

THE EDUCATION Ministry will set up another nine vocational and two technical secondary schools to produce more technical manpower at the lower levels.

The Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, said there were 20 vocational and nine technical schools at present.

The Government was also training skilled workers needed for national development through other institutions of higher learning such as the Technology University, University of Malaya and Mara Institute of Technology.

Speaking at Tractors Malaysia's presentation of prizes to outstanding students here today, Dr. Mahathir urged the private sector to help the Government organise and improve industrial training courses.

At the ceremony, the company gave \$120 to each of 23 vocational students, including one from Sarawak.

PROGRAMMES

Dr. Mahathir hoped the private sector would be more active in programmes of the Mara Vocational Institute, the Youth Pioneer Corps,

Industrial Training Institute and on-the-job training.

He described Tractors Malaysia's move in giving awards to outstanding students as an example other private firms should follow.

Tractors Malaysia managing director Mr. D. Park said the awards would be an annual affair in encouraging outstanding vocational students to pursue academic and

extra-mural activities with greater vigour.

He said his company was recruiting workers with vocational school qualifications as apprentices and training them to become heavy machinery technicians.

Last year, it took in 90 such workers from all parts of the country, most of whom bumiputras. It hopes to recruit 90 such workers every year.

Mr. Park said the company's move was in response to the Government's call to the private sector to play a more positive role in social and economic development.

More technical schools to be set up