

Mahathir on his letters problem

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ALOR STAR, Wednesday

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister of Education Dr. Mahathir Mohamed urged parents today to stop writing letters to him complaining against headmasters, teachers and school administration.

"Instead they should make use of parent-teacher associations to settle all their problems," he said when opening the new \$175,000 extension block at Sekolah Kebangsaan Guar Chempedak, 18 miles from here.

He said that since he became Education Minister, he had received many such letters.

Dr. Mahathir also urged teachers, lecturers and officials in the Education Ministry not to be selfish or harbour ill-feelings against their colleagues.

This, he pointed out, would only spoil the smooth running of the administration of education.

"Ill-feeling will crop up whenever promotions take place," the Deputy Premier said.

"The people must understand that promotions can be made only

through proper channels and not by any particular officer.

"Therefore it will be meaningless for an officer who has not been promoted to envy an upgraded colleague."

It was important, Dr. Mahathir said for all officers to be sincere with one another. Only through sincerity and collective efforts could success be achieved.

Referring to parent-teacher associations, Dr. Mahathir said many parents did not take an interest in them and only a few attended annual meetings.

Dr. Mahathir said he did not understand why many schools, after receiving allocations for extensions and other projects, still asked for fresh allocations for other projects.