

# Check moral decline

N.S.T. 17 ME 11976

# among youth: Mahathir

## TEACHERS TOLD OF THREAT TO BASIC IDENTITY OF MALAYSIANS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sunday.

**M**ALAYSIANS were told today that they may lose their "basic identity" if a remedy is not found to check the moral decline among the youth.

"Nowadays, we find that there is growing disrespect by children towards their parents, by pupils towards the teachers and by one community towards another," Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed

said. "We all realise the dangerous implications this would have and it must be pointed out to those involved if the people do not want to lose their identity."

Dr. Mahathir, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, was addressing 2,500 teachers from throughout the country at the opening of Teachers' Day, at the University of Malaya.

He said the theme of this year's celebration, "Moral Education in a Progressive Era" could be regarded as a "formula" to prepare a remedy in the fight against moral decline.

Dr. Mahathir said that the Government was determined to fully educate the young in order to make them understand the national culture and to create a sense of awareness of

the people's responsibility towards an independent country.

Dr. Mahathir later presented Teacher-Leader Gold Medals to Encik Muhamad Haji Abdullah from Kelantan, Encik Ali Mohamed Yunus of Johore, Mr. Tan Chee Meng of Perak, and Mr. V.K. Thillaikannu of Negeri Sembilan.

The fifth medal was awarded posthumously to the late Haji Kassim Harun.

The Deputy Minister, Mr. Chan Slang Sun, advised the people to strive to protect their cultural heritage against negative and undesirable elements.

Speaking at the Teachers' Day cultural night tonight, Mr. Chan said:

"There are people who still have the wrong impression that the arts are only meant for leisure and possess no other significance."