

# On the road to national integration with ETV



DR. MAHATHIR

EDUCATIONAL Television (ETV) could help the Government in its plan to achieve national integration, as it could provide equal educational opportunities to children all over the country, Education Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said yesterday.

Dr. Mahathir, who is also Deputy Prime Minister said, this was in line with the Government's aim at reducing educational imbalance and giving more opportunities to children to receive a better education, especially those in the rural areas.

Launching ETV service in Sabah and Sarawak, Dr. Mahathir said the service could help improve the standard of education for children in rural areas who constantly faced the problem of the lack of teachers and facil-

KUALA LUMPUR  
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ities, as it could introduce effective teaching methods with the use of audio-visual aids.

"Our educational programmes should direct toward allowing all Malaysians irrespective of race to participate in national development," he said.

"Emphasis must be stressed on discipline and the spirit of societal responsibility in the children's activities in and outside school," he added.

In the third Malaysia Plan passed recently, three primary objectives of the Education Ministry: To strengthen the educational system to achieve national unity. To modify and expand the educational system with the aim of obtaining the required manpower especially in the field of science and technology. To

improve the standard of education and reduce dropout rates.

Dr. Mahathir said ETV services would not only benefit the schoolchildren but also the teachers as it provided good training for them and gave them new ideas on teaching methods.

He recalled how the Education Ministry first proposed to set up Educational media services in 1971, by integrating the educational sections of radio and television and the audio-visual facilities section of the ministry.

Sabah and Sarawak was then not included in the project because television was not introduced there yet.

It was only in 1973 with the introduction of television in the two states that the Government applied for a \$8.5 million loan from the World Bank to set up the service.