

# Change to a positive attitude, Malays told

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SHAH ALAM, Mon.

— Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today the future of Malays depended much on the changing of their attitude to a positive one and the ability of their children to acquire knowledge.

"We need knowledge to take part in politics, in commerce and industry and in religion. In fact, we need knowledge to even cook good food.

"And in all these fields, we need the right or positive attitude to help encourage us in our efforts to attain our objectives," he added.

Dr. Mahathir who is also the Education Minister was speaking at the opening of a guidance and leadership seminar organised by the Federation of Malay Students' Unions at the Mara Institute of Technology here.

His speech was delivered by the secretary-general of the Ministry of Education, Datuk Abdul Kadir bin Talib.

Dr. Mahathir said the most important thing to an association was to ensure its members understand its objectives and its problems and to draw up plans and work programmes to attain these objectives.

"We may come across members who do not know the objectives of the association, its pro-

blems and struggles. They sometimes struggle without knowing the objectives. These people are only being used to further the interest of certain groups.

"We have heard surrendered communists confess that they were struggling without knowing the objectives of their organisations. Therefore struggling for the sake of struggling is not only futile but also a loss to one's self and the nation."

Dr. Mahathir commended the federation for helping Malay students.

He said many Malay students were weak particularly in Mathematics, Science and English and it was not easy to remedy the situation.

"The Government spent millions of dollars annually to provide education facilities and it expected satisfactory results from the expenditure," he said.

Dr. Mahathir said the Government had set aside \$1,395,791,400 for operating expenditure including salaries for teachers and \$374,152,574 for development including the building of new schools and classrooms and rebuilding old schools next year.

"Therefore, the efforts of the Federation to hold guidance classes is commendable," he said.

Dr. Mahathir reminded them that previous leaders of the federation had fought for its objectives without resorting to illegal action.

"They had never been made tools by any political faction."

He hoped the present leaders would follow this example.

About 150 members of the federation are attending the six-day seminar.