

Dr M on why we must keep English

ALOR STAR, Sun. — (Dr. Mahathir Mohamad reiterated today that Bahasa Malaysia will become the medium of instruction in all government aided secondary schools by 1980.

However, English would be taught as a compulsory second language, he said at the opening of the new three-storey extension building at Sekolah Rendah Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin in Jitra, 12 miles from here this afternoon.

Dr. Mahathir said English was important because the language was mostly used in science and technology all over the world.

English was not only important to ensure that Malaysia could progress with other countries in science and technology but also in helping the country to progress faster.

He said the Government was aware that greater educational opportunities must be provided to all the people in the country, particularly in the undeveloped rural areas.

The people could see for themselves that educational facilities were plentiful in the Kubang Pasu district.

More teachers

Compared with pre-independence days, the present educational facilities were tremendous.

Under the Third Malaysia Plan, Dr. Mahathir said, steps were being taken to streamline the education system.

The quality of teaching of science and mathematics in primary and secondary schools was being raised and more equipment were being provided. More teachers were also being trained.

Under the plan, the number of students in science, technical and vocational classes from the secondary school level upwards would be increased.