

LET'S WORK TOGETHER SAYS DR. M

16 MAY 1977

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed warned this morning that educational progress would be hampered if teachers, parents and the Government did not work together to check undesirable influences.

"In big towns like Kuala Lumpur we see

all kinds of undesirable activities such as drug abuse, anti-nationals, vice and moral decay.

"Our children are exposed to these evils and could be easily influenced if they are not given the opportunity to see examples of the good things in life," he said.

Dr. Mahathir was opening the Teachers' Day celebrations at the Dewan Tunku Chanceller, University Malaya. The theme of the celebrations this year is "Dedication and discipline as the foundation for educational progress."

He stressed that teachers should discipline themselves and be able to control and guide pupils with full determination and dedication.

"The same goes with pa-

rents and society as it is their responsibility to exercise control and show the younger generation good moral behaviour.

"It must be understood that children spend more time outside school than in school and therefore parents and society in general have a greater role in exercising control," he said.

It cannot be denied, he said, that teachers have greatly contributed to the development of the nation. There was a close connection between education and economic growth.

When the economy progressed, the Government would be able to sponsor bigger and more dynamic educational programmes.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the basis for knowledge and skills could be quickly achieved through formal education in schools, colleges and universities and this depended on the ability and qualifications of the teachers.

"Teachers of quality and higher qualifications will be able to provide a better standard of education

to children.

"Parents depend on teachers to provide guidance and education in line with the needs of the country for their children," he said.

Every country gave large grants to education because they realised the importance of education. In Malaysia five per cent of the Gross National Product goes towards education and training.

Malaysia was no exception in granting funds for education and training.

"Even these grants are still insufficient because the demand for education was greater with the increase in pupils yearly. Many of the old school buildings need replacement or renovation to increase the intake of pupils," he said.

At the end of last year, the number of pupils in the 7,250 primary and government aided secondary schools stood at 2,822,000.

The total figure of teachers in all categories stood at 97,247.

These figures would increase yearly and that meant more expenditure for the Government.