

Avoid waste says Dr Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — With almost one quarter of the Fourth Malaysia Plan budget allocated to defence, **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** today stressed the importance of an effective defence strategy coupled with efficient administration and management.

"This is to avoid wastage and ensure a smooth and orderly supply of equipment and other facilities for the Armed Forces," he said, when opening the Armed Forces Defence College at Mindel here.

A total of \$9.37 billion was allocated to defence and security under the Fourth Malaysia Plan, mak-

ing up 23.8 per cent of the total allocation.

Although Malaysia would be acquiring modern and sophisticated arms, as a developing country, "it will be difficult for us to buy them in great quantities," he said.

"We have to be constantly aware of this. We have to use the large allocation carefully and in the most effective manner," he added.

Praise

As an independent country, Malaysia, he said, needed an efficient and well-trained military to ensure national sovereignty and security.

"Training is an important aspect in our efforts to shape an Armed Forces that can carry out its responsibilities completely and effectively," he added.

Commending the college for opening its courses to the Police and Civil Service, **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir** said he hoped this would create better understanding among the three divisions in developing a

positive attitude to ensure a smooth implementation of development programmes for the Armed Forces.

The college will provide selected officers of the ranks of Lt-Kolonel and Kolonel or their equivalent, with advanced professional education through strategic and joint-services studies and their application in national security and administration.

The seven-month course is planned for 30 officers, 12 from the Army, six each from the Navy and Air Force and three each from the Police and Civil Service.

The course is designed to produce officers proficient in the planning and conduct of all operational tasks, in the management of defence resources and in comprehending the formulation of defence concepts and policy.

Together with the Armed Forces Staff College, the new college is expected to move to its permanent site at the Templer Park complex in 1985.