

Face the challenges: Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Malays who have power should not arrogantly disdain honest hard work or it will be the beginning of their downfall, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad warned today.

He also exhorted the Malays, particularly Umno members, to do good, despite the difficulties, as required by their religion, Islam.

These two themes formed the thrust of the Deputy Prime Minister and deputy Umno president's speech at the opening of the Umno Youth and Umno Wanita annual assemblies this morning.

"What is required of the Malays, in particular, is no longer the politics of championing demands but the recapturing of honourable attitudes and values which they had relinquished as a result of the administrative policies of colonial rulers," he said.

Independence, he

"If there is a way that can reduce the dependence of Malays on others, there will be Malays who would oppose it."

The saddest part of it all, he said, was that they often pretended to be Musliims and Malays who were fighting for the good of their religion and their people.

It was true, he added, that the Malays were less dependent now. But there were still many Malays who wanted the easy path taken by their forefathers..

peace in the community and the nation.

In defending the oppressed he issued this warning: "Before we do a song and dance on hearing of a matter, we must exercise caution and make careful investigations."

Citing Britain as an example of a country where trade unions had become so powerful that they no longer cared even for their country, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said:

"If Malay workers and students are over-protected, they will bring adverse consequences to their peo-

said, enabled the Malays to redeem their political and administrative power and, to maintain it, there must be willingness to work. This included the acquiring of knowledge and efficiency.

● FULL TEXT: PAGE 18

He spoke of Malays who forbade others in the community to study anything besides Islamic rites and tenets. All other education they rejected as secular.

He chided those who refused to do work which was a little 'heavy' and 'dirty', however attractive the income. These jobs, to them, could be done by foreigners.

"We need not soil our hands -- just enjoy the fruits of other people's labour. If we do work, let's not work hard. If we can pretend to work, we should do so. Else, we would be slaves to our employers, they say," he said.

In the face of all these realities, the Umno Youth and the Umno Wanita had a challenging task in their fight for good, he said.

"Umno Youth and Wanita are required to teach and guide the people towards good.

Goodness is unattractive, for it requires effort and sacrifice, it is

not easy, and it will not catch the attention of reporters," he said.

"It is so difficult to fight for good that this very speech is boring, neither spirited nor strident."

Saying that the role of the Umno Youth and the Wanita was not to create chaos among the Malays, he reminded them of the need to safeguard

ple, the nation, religion and to themselves.

"We must guard against over-indulging the Malays because there is nothing more destructive than pampering. Protection by the Youth and the Wanita must be tempered with moderation."

Malay workers and students must know the challenges and be prepared to face and overcome them without continuous assistance, he said.