

# Take up handicraft, Dr M tells rural

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KUALA SELANGOR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged the rural people to devote their spare time to the making of handicraft.

He noted that although steps had been taken to revive and expand the industry, there was a need to accelerate its growth in view of the strong demand for handicraft.

The Prime Minister said the country had abundant resources for the development of the industry.

"While waiting for the bigger industries to be located in their areas, the people should take up handicraft seriously," he said when opening the Kuala Selangor Umno division delegates' meeting.

## Criticisms

Handicraft importers, he said, were now focusing their attention on Malaysia for their supplies after Philipines failed to cope with their orders.

He said history also showed that industrial countries started with small industries like handicraft before moving into more sophisticated ones.

Dr Mahathir cited Japan as an example, saying it started with small industries before embarking on big undertakings.

Japan's path to industrialisation was then closely followed by South Korea and Taiwan.

When Taiwan abandoned handicraft in favour of bigger industries, the slot was filled by the Philippines.

He also hit out at critics of Government policies saying that they were criticising for the sake of criticism.

"We can list the things we have done which they have criticised.

"When we put forward the privatisation concept, they said it would not be profitable.

"When we introduced the Leadership by Example drive, they said *cakap tak scrupa bikin*.

"When we introduced the RCA

(bersih, cekap, amanah) concept, they said it was impossible to implement the concept," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Umno leaders and members should not be influenced by such criticisms.