

DR M: YOUTHS BECOMING TOO WESTERNISED

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ALOR STAR, Fri. — The Government is concerned over the growing tendency among Malaysian youths to place their personal desires above everything else, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said that this unhealthy attitude, which included expressing oneself to the extreme of dancing in supermarkets, was totally contradictory to the Malaysian culture and values.

"These youths feel that they do not have to be thankful to anyone and the Government only performed its duty to them by giving them scholarships.

"Some of them even took loans for further study but did not repay them," he added.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the opening of the West Malaysia Malay Teachers' Union's ninth delegates conference and the union's co-operative's annual general meeting at Universiti Utara Malaysia, near here.

Dr Mahathir said these youths had no consideration for society or the country and were only interested in their own welfare and desires.

"They are no longer shy to do anything and go on doing as they please," he said.

"There is no denying that unless measures are taken now to stop this trend, our community would be simi-

lar to that in the Western countries in the years to come.

"This means that there is a need to upgrade moral education in schools to instil healthy values in our children," he said.

Dr Mahathir urged teachers to play a more active role in educating students to be respectful, responsible and to uphold the Asian culture, which would safeguard the nation's future.

On job vacancies, he said that some 200,000 posts in government agencies had been frozen because of the economic slowdown.

"We cannot afford to fill the positions as the financial situation of the country does not allow us to," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had been burdened with extra expenditure after revising the salary scale of teachers in 1981.

"Our economic position deteriorated to the extent that at times, we even found it difficult to pay the current salaries of government servants," he said.

In any case, he said, the Government has lowered the income tax for next year, which would benefit the people.

Dr Mahathir also advised teachers against choosing to work only in towns. They must also be willing to serve in the rural areas, he said.