

Do not turn poverty

into an issue — Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** warned political parties today not to use poverty as an issue.

"This is a negative approach," he said.

"Instead, the political parties should concentrate on improving the standard of living of the people."

The Prime Minister was speaking at a tea

party held at his residence for 30 children from poverty stricken parts of the nation.

The children from different parts of the country are in the Federal Capital and are staying in the homes of some Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.

Potential

The "adopted" children programme is or-

ganised by Yayasan Gerakbakti Pemuda (YGP) which is assisted by Umno Youth's special committee on poverty.

The committee has identified 54 villages throughout Malaysia as being poverty stricken areas which has the potential to be developed.

YGP's executive director, Encik Ghazi Haji Ramli, said the 30 children in Standards

Four and Five were here for a week and were being educated and exposed to city life.

Several companies donated cash and kind for the programme. Five private organisations have pledged \$52,000.

At the tea party **Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah** played the piano while the children sang *Malaysia Berjaya*.