

Students show off business skills to Mahathir

8 DEC 1985

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Just back after leading a 200-member delegation to China, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad took another business trip today to open the 1985 Student Entrepreneurship Expo here.

Several business deals worth millions of dollars were clinched during the Prime Minister's China trip but this excursion was no less important.

After spending three hours visiting most of the 208 stalls, he pronounced the whole show good for the economic future of the country.

"If students can understand the working of the business processes, it will augur well for us because we need entrepreneurs in our market economy," he told reporters later.

Dr Mahathir took his time calling on each stall after opening the three-day expo organised by secondary schools here and Selangor at the Changkat Pavilion.

Accompanied by Education Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and other senior Ministry officials, he questioned the students on the items on sale.

And along the way, he made several purchases and tasted some of the food items offered, in-

cluding some durian.

At one stall, he sat down to a breakfast of *curry laksa Kedah* prepared by domestic science students of Sekolah Menengah Setapak. Dr Mahathir looked through the menu and gave his order to a "waitress."

Earlier, in his speech, Dr Mahathir said there was a lack of entrepreneurs in Malaysia because most businesses offered common goods and services.

"The normal practice is that if there is a person selling books, then everyone also wants to sell books."

He said that few thought of introducing new methods of doing business.

Dr Mahathir also said there were too few entrepreneurs among bumiputras and most were engaged in normal businesses.

He stressed that an entrepreneur not only did business but was also a pioneer.

The Prime Minister advised business graduates not to treat their diplomas and degrees as objects to decorate their offices.

Datuk Abdullah described the expo as a new chapter in education.

He said the expo was a new start in education to expose students to business practices.

"We are emphasising on students acquiring business skills through practice.

"We want the students to practise what they have learned in theory," he said.