

Teachers to take the lead

# THE UNITY WAY IN EDUCATION

-by MAHATHIR

NS001 20 DEC 1987

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Teachers have to prepare students for the reality of life in a multi-racial society, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.**

This is especially so in schools where the enrolment has been restricted to one race. The students of such schools cannot adapt to the multi-racial society outside when they leave.

They thus become detached from society and also feel they have been denied opportunities when trying to earn a living as adults.

Dr Mahathir said under such circumstances racial unity and national integration would be difficult to achieve.

He was speaking at the launch of the silver jubilee

would be better served with giving priority to our language to the extent that the search for knowledge is affected, or whether we give priority to knowledge even if it means we need to have a command of other languages as well.

"A spirit of patriotism that makes our nation go backwards and leaves us behind is not a true patriotic spirit.

"In this age of science and technology, whoever commands only one language will not achieve success. We have to consider this fact," he said.

However, Dr Mahathir pointed out that merely having science and technology was not enough. The country also needed efficient management, he said.

"Riches cannot be achieved and maintained if there is no management efficiency.

"In this context, austerity is important."

He added that teachers should guide pupils on austerity which should not only be limited to money but also their assets and the Government's

celebrations of the National Union of College-Trained Teachers at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Also present **were** Education Minister **Anwar Ibrahim** and Deputy Home Minister Datuk **Megat Junid Megat Ayob**, who later received the *Jasamu di Kenanga* (JMK) medal from the union.

Dr Mahathir said education was the main means of achieving national unity and instilling patriotism in the young.

He said the present education system could implant a healthy and positive attitude among students.

"Having students from various races studying together and being informed of the various customs, traditions and taboos of each race will help develop a more united society in Malaysia."

The Prime Minister also emphasised the importance of learning world languages as a means of gaining access to knowledge.

"The question now is whether national interests

Dr Mahathir also warned that the threat posed by **dadah** would affect national development if it was not eliminated.

This was why the Government had to take strong measures against **dadah** traffickers despite criticism from the international community.

However, they had now been made aware of the necessity of these tough anti-dadah measures to prevent the country from being wrecked by rampant **dadah** addiction.

## **Sacrifice and responsibility**

He called for more active support for **anti-dadah activities** from both the public and private **sectors**.

He urged teachers at all levels to prevent students from falling into the **dadah** trap. One way was to be active in the educational and advisory programme.

Dr Mahathir also paid tribute to teachers for their role in helping to bring about independence through direct involvement in politics and through their **literary** works.

He reminded teachers that they should show **exemplary** behaviour at all times as pupils look upon them as role models. The teachers' personalities had an influence on their students and if the educators were good, society and the nation would also be good.

He added that no teacher should say that if this was true, the Government should place a higher value on teachers.

"If teachers hold this attitude, this means the next generation will comprise people who do not want to sacrifice or people without responsibility.

"We are all aware that a happy and successful **community** would only exist if its **members** are prepared to sacrifice and be responsible."