

# Towards a better Malaysia

NSunT 17 APR 1988

## PM SPELLS OUT POSITIVE ROLE FOR WORKING YOUTHS

BY NURAINA SAMAD

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Working youths should be wary of negative elements in their work places because as the "conscience of society" they have a responsibility to nurture ideals for a better Malaysia, the Prime Minister said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also reminded all youths that they should not allow destructive elements to prevent them from striving for a better society.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the International Youth Centre at Bandar Baru Cheras here today, Dr Mahathir said: "As they strive to better society, they must not resort to ways that are destructive to the very society they seek to improve," he said.

In light of this, he called on the country's working youths not to create trouble because this might give foreigners, especially investors, an unfavourable picture of the country.

Dr Mahathir said the country needs continuous peace and stability to enable it to proceed with economic improvements.

He said employed youths have a big responsibility to help boost local and foreign investment. If workers create trouble they would only scare away potential investors, he added.

"They should remember new jobs must be created and this is only possible once the economy improves."

### Real assets

An economy affected by destructive events would shatter the country's dream of becoming fully industrialised.

Some 600 guests, including 400 from Japan, were present at the ceremony.

On the theme of commitment to work, the Prime Minister reminded youths of the world to work hard and practise noble ideals and values so that they would be "real assets".

Youths are also responsible for spreading understanding and tolerance among the peoples of the world. This can be done when there is greater awareness of each other, he said.

He described the \$12.5 million centre as "an added page in the history of youth development" not only for Malaysia but for the region.

"This centre will not only bring pride to the youth of this country but also to the Government which is very committed to the development of youth."

Dr Mahathir also expressed the nation's deep gratitude to Japanese master calligrapher and philanthropist Kampo Harada who donated one billion yen (about \$17 million) towards the cost of building the centre.

Earlier, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Najib Tun Razak said the setting up of the centre would enable the Ministry to intensify its activities such as courses, seminars and workshops in co-operation with international youth bodies.

Also present at the opening were Mr Harada, Fukuoka City Mayor Kuwahara Kaiji, Cabinet Ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and senior Government officials.