

Avoid mischief, PM tells youths

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad told workers and youths today not to cause any mischief that could drive away investors and harm their own future.

"If investors, foreign as well as local, get wind of any trouble, they will not want to set up plants in the country," the Prime Minister said when opening the International Youth Centre at Bandar Tun Razak near here.

He told them they would be the ones to suffer if no new industries were set up, and "our hopes of becoming a newly industrialised country will not be realised."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had the facilities to service industries but this would not help if rash actions brought a bad image to the country.

"The opportunities are open to you while you are still young. And when you grow to be adults you will be entrusted the responsibility of caring for other youths who were once like you and susceptible to undesirable influences," he told the youths.

Dr Mahathir said because of the economic recession many youths became jobless and many attempts by them to find regular jobs failed.

"However, many youths were lucky to obtain jobs. They should be thankful and not forget that they were once unemployed. Knowing the problems of a jobless person, those who

have jobs should not try to cause unrest or disturbance while the country forges ahead to be a progressive nation."

He said the youths of the country should be cautious of "the negative elements in society" who were out to influence the young generation for their own selfish interest.

The youths must identify

these undesirable elements and keep away from them, Datuk Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir urged the youths of Malaysia and other developing countries to intensify their efforts to organising various youth activities for the development and progress of their respective nations and people.

On the setting up of the International Youth Centre — which was built through the sole contribution of Japanese calligrapher and philanthropist Kampo Harada, Dr Mahathir said: "(It) is an added page in the history of youth development, not only for Malaysia but also for this region."

He added that the Malaysian Government was grateful for the contribution made by Mr Harada and hoped that others like him would come forward to help developing nations organise youth development activities which contribute towards nation building, international understanding and world peace.

The Prime Minister also hoped the Centre will become a focal point for co-operation among youths in the Asean region, as well as the Asia/Pacific Rim and Commonwealth countries.