

Stop squabbling or lose out: Mahathir

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By Rozani Din

BANGI, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad called on the Malays today to stop squabbling among themselves or risk losing out on the opportunities available under the New Economic Policy.

"There are signs that Malaysia has reached a transitional point and that the level of development will increase further. If we miss the boat now, we will be left behind forever," the Prime Minister said when

opening the second Malay Intellectual Congress at Universiti Kebangsaan.

Dr Mahathir reiterated that the Malays were not taking away the rights of other races, except what was rightfully theirs.

He urged the people who believed that the NEP was of benefit to all bumiputras to continue supporting it.

There were Malays who felt that the NEP only helped "a certain group of people to amass wealth," Dr Mahathir said, adding

that these people did not realise that they, too, had gained from the NEP.

"There are some people who are eager to see the NEP fail. They are the ones who want to see the Malays lag behind the other races. Only the Malays can cause the downfall of the Malays," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that in the effort to enrich the knowledge of the Malays, they must be willing to go "anywhere regardless of the climate or the people."

"I believe that to grasp knowledge which will benefit us, we must be willing to learn, even from our enemies," he said. "Equally important is the willingness to learn other languages."

For a race to be successful, they must be able to use knowledge effectively to improve their lives, Dr Mahathir said, adding that the practical application of knowledge was not a strong point among the Malays.