

Mahathir: Be thankful for the good education

BANGI, Mon. — Parents and pupils should be thankful for the educational facilities made available in the country to enable them to progress in their academic studies, **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said today.

The Prime Minister said this was made possible by a Government that had been in power since the nation achieved independence.

Dr Mahathir said independence alone would not help the nation achieve progress without a responsible and committed Government.

"Contrary to what a cer-

tain opposition member has claimed, the success we have attained is not by sheer luck. If luck had everything to do with it, then many countries should have been lucky and achieved tremendous progress," he said when opening the Bandar Baru Bangi Secondary School here.

Dr Mahathir said there were countries which had achieved independence but still could not afford to provide educational facilities for their people.

The Government, he added, had always allocated about 20 per cent of the Budget for education.

Dr Mahathir said the country had a wealth of facilities so much so that the people took them for granted.

Because of these facilities, Malaysians were able to attain higher academic qualifications, he added.

Dr Mahathir reminisced the time before independence when there were very few locals who entered university.

"But now, there are so many people with bachelor degrees, Masters and PhDs. It is a very common thing these days," he said.

He said these facilities were being provided be-

cause the Government was committed to ensuring progress.

"When we are progressive, we will not be looked down at. When other nations respect the Prime Minister, they are also respecting the country and

the people," he said.

Also present were his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah; Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib and his wife Puan Sri Asbi and Selangor BN candidates and party veterans.