

System has done nation good, says PM

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By Syed Abu Bakar

ALOR STAR, Tues. — Malaysia's administrative system has been proven to be effective and capable of ensuring peace and stability, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said this system was created after much study and had been tested for its ability to bring peace and order to benefit the nation.

Dr Mahathir also said the country had also successfully changed the economy from a basically agriculture-based to an industrialised one.

Speaking at the Speech and Prize Presentation Day of the Maktab Sultan Abdul Hamid College which was opened by the Sultan of Kedah, he said the Government was prepared to make adjustments to its administrative style to ensure an even more effective administration which could result in greater progress.

He said Malaysians need to adapt their lives and equip themselves with skills in line with the needs of an industrialised society.

Dr Mahathir said that in line with this, the Education Ministry had introduced "Living Skills" as a subject in schools which is aimed at helping Malaysians, especially the young to acquire these skills.

He stressed that being a new subject, Living Skills might have some shortcomings which would be overcome if educationists including teachers strove to upgrade it.

Dr Mahathir said the subject could help students to acquire knowledge and attitude of an industrialised society which would help in achieving the status of an advanced nation.

The Prime Minister urged students to instil the desire for change in themselves and in the nation.

"This change can only come about after a long period and by discarding old ineffective values and replacing them with fresh positive ones," he said.

Dr Mahathir who studied at the school from 1932 to 1946 later presented the Iskandar Scholarship for 1991 to Hasnul bin Hashim, who obtained 7A1s and a A2 in the SRP examination.

Hasnul, 16, is also active in sports having won the State tennis, singles and doubles championship last year at the schools' level and was the doubles runner-up at the Kedah Tennis Junior Open 1990 for the Under 16 category.

He also represented Malaysia at the Asean Tennis Inter-schools Championship last year.