

# Strive for Vision 2020, youths told

ALOR STAR, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants Malaysian youths to gear their efforts to realise the targets of Vision 2020 to make the country a fully developed nation.

Towards this end, local youths should learn skills by attending training sessions, he said.

In his message in the souvenir programme for the launch of the "Malaysia Prihatin" (Caring Malaysia) programme, Dr Mahathir said today's youths would determine the nation's future.

"Therefore, they need to be guided to ensure that they form a progressive society with high moral standards, capable of competing with the international community."

In a similar message, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff said youths had a significant role to play to assist in the development of the country's socio-economy that would determine the success of the National Development Policy in the year 2020.

To achieve the targets, the youths must be fully involved in development.

Youth and Sports Minister Haji Annuar Musa said the "Malaysia Prihatin" programme was an effort towards producing a caring society which has a heart for the less fortunate.

He called on the public and private sectors to contribute towards achieving the aspirations of producing a caring society.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to launch the programme at 2pm tomorrow. About 10,000 youths will be at the Institut Kemahiran Belia Negara (IKBN) in Jitra to welcome the Prime Minister for the opening ceremony.

He will also present the keys to the "Rumah Malaysia Prihatin" to four poor families before proceeding to open the \$1.9 million institute.

The houses were built by 70 pioneer students, including 29 females, of the institute.

The institute would play an essential role to realise the Vision 2020 goals by concentrating on the development of rural areas, its director Abdul Aziz Hamid said.

It will be a major catalyst

in encouraging the participation of the rural folk in realising the target.

The institute will produce about 200 youths every year trained in vocational skills to assist the rural people in venturing into commercial activities that will help improve their status.

The first batch of youths will graduate from the institute early next year.

It is the seventh such institution to be set up by the Youth and Sports Ministry to train youths in vocational skills.

The courses offered at the institution are tailored mainly at improving the livelihood of the rural people.

The "outboard boat engine" course, for instance, would benefit youths, especially those involved in the fishing industry, said Encik Abdul Aziz.

"They can utilise the skills by setting up a repair workshop at their respective areas," he said.

Encik Abdul Aziz said the institute also offers courses like repairing of motorcycle repairs engines, furniture-making and designing.