

PM: We won't give in to every demand

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By Saiful Azhar
Abdullah and
Zubaidah Bakar

JITRA, Thurs. — The Government will not give in to everybody's demands just to gain popularity, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

As a responsible Government, it would consider the country's future before fulfilling any demand from the people, the Prime Minister said.

"Therefore, any Government decision is made in the interest of the nation and future betterment of the people.

"If we are to fulfil every demand, the future of the country will be in jeopardy and the economy will suffer," he said at the simultaneous launching of the **Malaysia Prihatin** (Caring Malaysia) programme and State Youth Assembly and opening of the Institut Kemahiran Belia Negara (IKBN) here.

He said: "We do not want to be like a country in South America where the Government wanted to be popular and they bowed to every demand from the people.

"For instance, when the people wanted a raise in salary, they fulfilled it for popularity. In the end, the country's economy collapsed and the people suffered.

"The Government will not fulfil the demand for popularity and sell the future of the people.

"That's the reason the Government wants Malaysians to be a caring society. They should demonstrate

great commitment and responsibility to the nation and the less fortunate."

Earlier, Youth and Sports Minister Senator Haji Annuar Musa said the Ministry would introduce new approaches to train youth at all the seven IKBNs next year.

He said the adoption of these approaches in the present curriculum which had been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Training were important to ensure that the training sessions complied with the country's needs.

The seven IKBNs are in Pertak and Sepang (Selangor), Skudai (Johor), Ipoh (Perak), Wakaf Tapai (Terengganu), Sibul (Sarawak) and Jitra (Kedah).

Haji Annuar said a programme aimed at developing positive attitude towards being self-employed and working in the private sector for those undergoing training sponsored by the Ministry would also be introduced from next year.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff said the Government needed the support from the youth to realise the country's aspiration of becoming a developed nation.

He said the youth of today who would live to see the country's achievement needed to become more patriotic and sensitive to changes or the target of the vision would not be fulfilled.

He added that continued efforts should be made to promote the "Caring Malaysia" programme widely among the youth.