

Dr M: Hawking needs to be improved

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight called for changes and improvement in hawking and petty trading as the country moved towards the year 2020.

He said the Government recognises the fact that hawking and petty trading are traditional activities in the country.

"As such there must be changes to enhance these

activities so as to bring about a better livelihood to hawkers and petty traders," he said when launching an eight-day Petaling Street Carnival organised by the Kuala Lumpur Hawkers' and Petty Traders' Association.

Also present were Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Datuk Bandar Tan Sri Elyas Omar, Deputy Minister of National Unity and Social

Development Datuk Alex Lee and the carnival organising chairman Lee Lam Thye.

To achieve this, he said, the standard of hawking and petty trading must be upgraded, which would in turn draw more people to patronise them.

Dr Mahathir also emphasised cleanliness and orderliness among hawkers and petty traders.

"Clean and orderly boule-

vard cafes and coffeeshops in European countries which are popular among tourists could be adopted and promoted here," he said.

Referring to the carnival, he said this could further promote national unity among the different races in the country and their cultures.

On Petaling Street, Dr Mahathir said its popularity was well known.

He added that there was a need to make the stalls of the hawkers and petty traders more attractive as that could draw tourists.

Earlier, Datuk Alex Lee, who is also the association chairman, said this was the first time that a carnival had been organised to raise funds for charity organisations, to promote tourism and enhance the image of Petaling Street.