

Museums remind us of our roots, says Dr M

MALACCA, Thurs.— Museums serve to remind Malaysians of their roots, making them wiser and more receptive to challenges, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"When we know our origin, it is easy to pave our future path," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there was nothing wrong for the people to look back if they were unsure whether they were moving in the right direction.

"It will enable us to plan better for the future," he said when conducting a simultaneous opening of four museums at the Malacca historical complex here. They are the Ethnographic Museum, the Youth Museum, the People's Museum and the Historical Museum.

The Prime Minister praised the Malacca Government for coming up with more museums, befitting Malacca's status as the Historical City of Malaysia.

Museums, he said, would be useful to prepare youths to take over the running of the country which is capable of reaching greater heights unlike their foreign counterparts who would be inheriting countries plagued with various problems.

"What is important is that our youths must understand the mechanism to continue what has been achieved by the nation," he said.

Earlier, Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik said that by next year, Malacca would have 15 museums.

Rahim said museums could teach the people to be more tolerant and dependent of one another apart from exposing to tourists the "ingredients" which enabled multi-racial Malaysians to become what they are today.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir visited the Petronas refinery jetty project, which is under construction in Tangga Batu.

He was given a briefing by Petronas Malacca refinery chief executive officer Abdul Rahim Hashim and project manager of sub-contracting company Seadresco Dredging, F.C. Stickel, on board *Prins der Nederlanden*, a dredging vessel used in the construction work.

The jetty, the biggest oil refinery jetty in the region, costs \$62 million and is expected to be ready in two years.