
Come home to work, PM tells skilled Malaysians

BY M. VEERA PANDIYAN

MALACCA: Skilled Malaysians working abroad should return and take up jobs in the country, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

He said they would be able to get good wages at home and enjoy the benefits of lower cost of living.

Speaking at the opening of the Hualon Corporation textile factory at Tangga Batu, **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said although wages might still be much below what they were getting, their purchasing power would be higher because of the lower cost of living.

"For example, they may be able to earn 10 times more in Japan but what is the use if a bowl of noodles is \$25?" he asked.

Dr Mahathir said a

large number of Malaysians were working in countries such as Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong.

He said many of them were working illegally and living like fugitives.

"It is shameful for us to smuggle ourselves into a country to work even when we are being treated no worse than criminals," he said.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was concentrating on "high technology, capital intensive" industries.

"For these we need workers who are well-educated and technically capable," he said.

"This means Malaysian workers should be prepared to wait patiently until they acquire proper training.

"They will not lose out in the end because their

wages will continue to rise."

The Prime Minister also visited the \$4.7 billion Petronas refinery project site and opened three museums before ending his two-day official visit to the state.

He later visited Johor (see Page 2).

The three museums are the Malaysian Youth Museum at the former post office building, and the history and ethnography museums sited in the Dutch-built Stadhuys.

Dr Mahathir also opened the **Malacca — a Decade of Progress** exhibition at the former municipal council premises.

His visit coincided with Malacca's Historic City Day celebrations.

Among the activities on Wednesday night were a floats procession and fireworks display.
