

Agenda for nation's youth outlined

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday outlined an agenda for the nation's youth centred on the need to nurture positive qualities and attitude at an early age.

Launching the "Youth in Nation Building" exhibition in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Dr Mahathir said the youth of today should clearly define their ambition in life and be prepared to accept risks in ventures which offer much benefit to the nation.

He said the first step in preparing the nation to-

wards meeting the targets set by Vision 2020 is to change the attitude of youths to suit the changing times.

"They can no longer depend on the Government to get something. Youths should be self-reliant in everything they do. They should have a clear target in life, be ambitious and possess a drive to succeed, be self-disciplined and willing to take risks," he told the audience at the exhibition which was organised by the MCA Youth wing.

They should remove all

the negative attitudes such as the fear of taking risks, intolerance, disinterest in efforts towards self-improvement, uncooperativeness and being self-centred.

Also important, the Prime Minister said, is to equip youths with the right knowledge. They should keep abreast with developments in fields such as manufacturing, research and development, computers, communications, transportation, science and technology and architecture.

They should acquire the

knowledge in these fields for without knowledge they will not be able to move anywhere or help the nation to succeed.

Youths should increase their skills in relevant fields. The skills can be acquired through on-the-job training, study tours, participation in workshops and seminars and apprenticeship.

He warned youths against the unhealthy trend of idolising negative Western values and cultures which would hamper efforts to realise the objective of making Malay-

sia a developed nation.

He said as a developing country, Malaysia has and can learn tremendously from positive Western values but added that it is sad that many youths tend to absorb everything from the West irrespective of whether those values have positive or negative effects.

"Activities such as rock culture, keeping long hair, the wearing of earrings by males, dadah addiction and the practice of immoral activities are on the increase among youths," he said.