

Dr M: 2020 depends on youth

By STEPHEN THEN

KOTA BARU: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday linked the success of Vision 2020 to the willingness of youths to take the initiative and change their attitude towards the challenges they faced in their daily lives.

The Prime Minister said the youths of today shouldered the burden of helping the country attain the objectives of Vision 2020.

"Those who are responsible for shaping this vision today will not be able to continue the struggle to ensure its actual success in the 30 years to come.

"The senior leaders in society can plan such visions by giving guidelines

and advises and lay the foundation but the task of attaining the vision lies with the youths," he told more than 10,000 youths and students when launching the 1993 National Youth gathering here.

He said the attitude of the youngsters would ultimately determine whether the country could be successful or not.

He added that if youths continue to practise the type of loafing culture currently highlighted in the newspapers, the vision would most likely be unattainable.

Some students held the opinion that too much challenges and pressures had been placed on them. This type of thinking will

reduce their initiative to learn, he stressed.

"We are already trailing other countries in terms of expertise, knowledge and experience and if we want to catch up, we must speed up our pace of progress," he said.

He said some parents in developed countries were too liberal to the extent of allowing their children to skip school, resulting in many youngsters turning to crime.

Malaysian Youth Council president Fuad Hassan, in his speech earlier, said the council would liaise with some local universities to start a certificate course for its members by the middle of next year.

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