

Men, women have equal role to play, says Dr M

By STEPHEN THEN

KUALA TERENGGANU: Men and women have equally important roles in national development, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"In order for us to keep pace with development in the world around us, we need to maximise the use of every available manpower.

"This means that women and men have an equally important function to fulfil in society," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the ability of women was not any less compared with that of men in many fields, and we can not ignore this fact.

"Even though women have specific roles to play in society, they can still contribute a lot to social and economic develop-

ment," he told some 2,000 students at Kolej Agama Sultan Zainal Abidin (Kusza).

Dr Mahathir, who is on a two-day visit here, was earlier briefed by the management of Kusza on the progress of the college.

He said he was impressed with what Kusza had achieved so far.

"I am proud that this college has also taken the effort to conduct studies and courses in other fields apart from religious studies.

"We must not neglect Islam but we must also strive for excellence in other sectors of life as well," he said.

The Prime Minister advised the students to be precise in their aims in life and to do their best to attain perfection in whatever they did.

Earlier, at a lunch host-

ed by Mentri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, Dr Mahathir stressed the importance of being humble.

He told the heads of department and members of the state assembly to guard against complacency and pride.

Dr Mahathir said that even though the country was rich in natural resources, such wealth would be useless unless the people knew how to use them to the fullest.

"For this to happen, the people must always upgrade their knowledge and skills to maximise the use of available materials," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said many Islamic countries were discriminated against by others because they were weak economically, politically and financially.