

aae

Mahathir-skills

LIVING SKILLS SUBJECT FULFILLS GOVT'S DESIRE

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 11 (Bernama) -- The Living Skills subject in schools fulfills the government's desire to introduce the people to basic skills, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Generally, the subject had been well received by the students, he told reporters after a visit to the Sekolah Menengah Datuk Lokman in Kampung Pandan here.

The encouraging performance of the students in the subject was good for Malaysia which would become an industrialised country, he said.

"If in the past we had concentrated on retail trade and agriculture, now almost all of us work in manufacturing industries and need to know a little of these skills," he said.

Dr Mahathir said though some among the students would become managers or accountants, they would be ineffective managers and accountants unless they knew something of the goods to be produced. -- more

AFY MGN

11/01/15-56MST

CNS4540

U GE 11-01 00169 EA091

aae

Mahathir-skills 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said he visited the school to see for himself the progress achieved by the students in the subject, and added that he found the mode of teaching to be appropriate.

"We find that students, whether they are boys or girls, have better understanding of handicraft, and principles of mechanics and electronics and how the products operate," he said.

During the visit to the Living Skills workshop at the school, Dr Mahathir took the opportunity to question some students on their understanding of carpentry and metal work, plumbing, electricity and electronics, engines and self-management.

He proposed that a special room be provided to exhibit mechanical and electronic goods in every school for students to easily understand their operation and function.

For example, he said, old engines could be bought at low prices and dissected to show the parts within to enable the students to understand better. -- more

AFY MGN

11/01/16-15MST

CNS4547

U GE 11-01 00168 EA092

aae

Mahathir-skills 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Asked whether any changes would be made to the approach to teaching the subject, Dr Mahathir said he would discuss the matter with Education Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud.

"I have to think about it. I just had a look today. It has just registered in my mind, so I have to think about it first," he said.

The prime minister was impressed with boy students participating in cooking through the self-management workshop at the school.

Dr Mahathir said male cooks in the country had achieved a high standard and were qualified to work in leading hotels abroad.

"They not only study in the country but also abroad. I have come across Malaysian chefs in New York, Switzerland ... and elsewhere ... they have furthered their studies so much so that they are able to work at leading hotels in the world," he said. -- Bernama

AFY MGN