

PM happy with Living Skills progress

By K.P. Waran

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today went back to school to ascertain the progress of the Living Skills subject which was introduced in December 1990.

He spent more than three hours at the Datuk Lokman Secondary School in Kampung Pandan here where he watched the students do carpentry, dismantle portable generators, work in the garden and attend lessons. He stopped to give advice, correct the students' mis-

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takes and ask them questions.

He said he found that generally the subject had been well received by the students.

"I found that what is being taught is in line with the Government's desire to introduce basic skills to the people. The students seem to understand the mechanics behind the electrical and electronic processes.

"I will discuss with the Education Minister the possible changes."

Dr Mahathir had suggested during the visit that the workings of the internal

combustion engine be included since old engines could be obtained cheaply from workshops to enable students to open them up and see how they work.

He said the encouraging performance of the students in the subject was good for Malaysia in its quest to attain the status of an industrialised nation.

He said that although many of the students would become managers or accountants, they would be ineffective unless they knew the basic principles of how goods were produced.

Dr Mahathir, who was ac-

companied by Education Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, was briefed on the activities of the school by headmaster V. Chakravarthy.

Dr Mahathir moved from one class to another, watching teachers conduct lessons, talking to students and gaining first-hand information on teaching methods.

At a cookery class, he tried his hand at cooking fried rice, which the visitors and students later gave the "thumbs up" after eating.

He mingled with teachers and students and was pleas-

antly surprised when many of the students presented him with flowers, specially designed greeting cards and his portraits which they had drawn.

Many students armed with cameras were popping out from all corners to snap a picture of him.

Dr Mahathir said he was impressed with the teaching methods at the school.

He added that the multi-racial composition of students allowed them to mix and therefore they would grow up and live in a united and peaceful nation.