

Officers told to think positive

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants government officers to break out of any negative mental barrier by believing in themselves as achievers.

The prime minister said they should expand the paradigm or pattern that they had set for themselves by expanding their goals and capabilities.

"If we compare ourselves to other successful countries, we are just as successful, or even more capable, and we should not limit ourselves by believing otherwise," he added.

Dr Mahathir was closing the two-day seminar entitled *Dealing with the Challenges of Vision 2020: Towards the Formation of a New Paradigm for the Public Services Sector* organised by the National Institute of Public Administration here yesterday.

He said Malaysians needed to set higher targets for themselves and should not be entirely satisfied with past achievements.

"To achieve maximum results, civil servants need to look back at past achievements, take stock of current ones and set targets for higher achievements," he stressed.

On the rapid development, Dr Mahathir said it was the result of sheer hard work and the conviction that the country had the potential to become great.

"We have proven to the world that we can do it and somewhere along the way, we must have done something right but if there was anything that we have done wrong we are prepared to learn from it," he said.

He added that Malaysians should keep in mind that they were no different from the Japanese or the Europeans and that they, too, could become great achievers.

"There is no limitation to what we can do so long as we can break through the psychological barrier and build a new paradigm," he said.

Civil servants should come out of negative thoughts embedded in their minds during the British colonial era and they should have more confidence in their abilities, he said.

He praised the late Tunku Abdul Rahman and late Datuk Onn Jaafar who broke free of the paradigm set by the colonialists when they fought for and achieved independence for the nation.

5 FEB 1994
Mahathir doubts

Nato will exercise ultimatum
12 FEB 1994

ultimatum

By MANJEET GILL

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed doubts that Nato will launch air strikes against Serbian positions in Sarajevo after the 10-day ultimatum expires.

The Prime Minister said Nato would just wait it out and come up with an excuse that the Serbs had realised their atrocities.

"After the 10 days have passed, Nato will not attack and the ethnic cleansing (by the Serbs) will continue," he said after attending a Chinese New Year open house hosted by Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding on Thursday.

On Russia's proposal to put Sarajevo under UN administration, Dr Mahathir said:

"Tell the Russians to instruct the Serbs to withdraw (from Bosnia-Herzegovina) and then we can discuss.

"I don't believe either the Nato or Russian plan can stop the killings in Bosnia."

On Thursday, Nato threatened the Serbs with air strikes if they did not pull back 20km away from Sarajevo within 10 days beginning yesterday.