

# Dr M: Don't rely solely on aid

KUALA LUMPUR: Aid provided to the less fortunate is meant to prepare them for the future, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

The Prime Minister said the Government did not want the orphans, the poor and the aged, to be too dependent on it.

"What is given (in the assistance) is training and mental development to ensure they are ready for the future," he said at the launching of the Malaysian Orphans Welfare Foundation (Yatim) at the Islamic Centre here.

Present at the launching were National Unity and Social Devel-

opment Minister Datuk Napsiah Omar, the foundation's adviser Tun Daim Zainuddin and its chairman Datuk Ahmad Sebi Bakar.

Dr Mahathir said the assistance would enable the recipients to compete in the future with other people without the need for special preferences.

He also reminded the public that orphans were just like any other children except they were the community's responsibility.

"Therefore, it is essential that we train them (the orphans) so that they will not be a burden to us in the future."

Later, Dr Mahathir received contributions from companies and individuals amounting to RM11 million.

Yatim, according to an official, was set up to look into the welfare of orphans who were brilliant regardless of race or religion to ensure that they received quality education.

In the initial stage, Yatim will select orphans from orphanages throughout the country based on their academic achievement to be placed in Yatim hostels.

Yatim's funds will come from donations from corporate bodies and individuals.