

# PM: Groom children for modern challenges

By STEPHEN THEN

KEMAMAN: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday called on parents to groom their children to face the challenges of modern society as Malaysia continues its march towards industrialised nation status.

The Prime Minister said that without their help, speeches and policies devised by the Government would be of little use.

"If we had tried hard enough, we would have attained developed nation status by now. If we are still not developed yet, it is because we have not tried hard enough. The only obstacles are our attitude, principles and values.

"As a politician, it is my job to give speeches, but it would be useless if there is no result. I hope parents will at least think about what I have said," Dr Mahathir told some 2,000 people before laying the foundation stone for the RM37 million Terengganu Advanced Techni-

cal Institute (Tati) in Telok Kalong industrial estate here.

The Prime Minister admitted Malaysia was a highly ambitious nation.

"But it is easy to have ambition. Between ambition and

reality, there is a wide gap. Ambition alone does not guarantee success," he pointed out.

The Prime Minister said Malaysians were equal with other races in every sense of the word.

"However, if we do not take the initiative and make sacrifices, it would be difficult for us to achieve what we plan," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was glad Terengganu had chosen a company from Switzerland to help set up Tati.

Praising the country for its success, he said: "Switzerland has the highest per capita income in the world at one time even though it is a landlocked country with limited natural resources.

"The country is not only independent but also economically successful because the people are very disciplined and patriotic. We should take Switzerland as an example together with other developed countries in the east."

Dr Mahathir said con-

structing scores of institutes of learning would be useless if Malaysians were not willing to work hard.

He praised the state government for taking the effort to spend wisely to help train a skilled labour force for itself and for the country.

Mentri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, in his speech earlier, said the state decided to set up Tati to help groom skilled technical workers to be utilised in its industrialisation plans.

He said the state government was planning ahead to ensure it had enough people capable to carry out the task of industrialising Terengganu.

Tati, which is scheduled to be completed next year, would offer courses in tool and dye, draftsmanship, mechatronics and information technology.

It would use technology from Switzerland and the centre would also train workers from other Asean countries in future.