

Prepare the young, teachers told

ALOR STAR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded teachers of their task to prepare the younger generation to face the more challenging life ahead.

The Prime Minister said knowledge, ability and skills were essential qualities in an era which strove for excellence.

Dr Mahathir said it was the duty of teachers to realise their roles in moulding the new generation.

He said this in the souvenir programme of the national-level Teachers' Day celebration, to be launched at Wisma Darul Aman here

tonight.

Dr Mahathir said teachers shouldered a huge role and responsibility in efforts to develop the nation.

He said that while the army was the nation's frontline defence, teachers were now considered the rearguard.

Both defence lines were needed in order for the country to stand strong and enjoy prosperity.

Meanwhile, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff said teachers should be sensitive to changes.

He did not want them to be trapped by the pace of development and urged

them to strive to raise the dignity of their vocation.

Education Minister Datuk Dr Sulaiman Daud praised teachers for their role in striving to realise the nation's vision.

He said teachers had been striving to lift the level of professionalism in this particular career in order to render efficient services.

Dr Sulaiman expressed confidence that with the improvement in the vocation, the nation's vision would be achieved.

Meanwhile, at the launching of the Teachers' Day celebration of Sekolah Kebangsaan Kampung Ba-

haru in Pendang, Dr Sulaiman said the ministry had yet to receive any recommendations from the task force formed to tackle the exodus of academicians to the private sector.

He hoped the task force, headed by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia vice-chancellor Dr Sham Sani, would offer realistic suggestions to overcome the problem.

Commenting on today's report that the Malaysian Embassy in Egypt would be taking over the administration of students' hostels to prevent it from being used as a political centre by stu-

dents holding divergent views, Dr Sulaiman said he had not been informed about the move.

Meanwhile, various activities have been lined up during the five-day Teachers' Day celebrations which began on May 13.

They include inter-school debates in English and Bahasa Melayu, exhibitions and speech contests.

Tomorrow, Osman will launch the State-level Teachers' Day celebrations at Wisma Darul Aman, followed by the conference of State Education Department directors at the same place.