

Dr M: Let us solve problems together

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ALOR STAR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on teachers to join hands with the Government to find solutions to the problems of the nation so that concerted efforts could be taken jointly to develop the country.

The Prime Minister said he was aware of some dissatisfaction over certain matters among teachers, including salary scales.

"As human beings, everybody has problems and dissatisfaction," he said, adding that the Government had no bad intention in making decisions.

"Our decisions are made

after consultations, seminars and based on research. We are striving to achieve perfection.

"However, we realise that we can never be perfect. There will be some shortcomings and therefore we should find solutions to certain matters.

"I hope we can join hands to resolve these problems so that we can concentrate on developing our nation and make it respected by all," said the Prime Minister at the launching of the national-level teachers' day celebration at Wisma Darul Aman here tonight.

Also present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff and Education Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud.

Dr Mahathir reminded

the teachers that in the past, the people were humiliated by the colonials but after independence Malaysia had enjoyed a string of successes unlike certain countries which did not really taste the meaning of independence although they achieved it earlier than us.

The Prime Minister did not want the people to focus too much on resolving personal problems.

"We should concentrate on resolving the problems of the nation because when we achieve that, it will partly solve our personal problems."

The people should not allow personal problems to influence their duties and responsibilities to the nation, he added.

"We have a duty to per-

form for the nation, people and religion. We must understand that we must have the right attitude for the betterment of the nation.

"I would like to thank the teachers for their contribution and I hope they will continue to contribute towards the development of the country so that we have a respected nation."

Dr Mahathir said he decided to attend tonight's Teachers' Day celebration because he really appreciated their contribution national development.

"It is very difficult for me to forget the teachers. I am what I am today due to the guidance of my teachers."

Dr Mahathir also reminded teachers that to

achieve progress they had to respond to change.

"That's why we introduced the new curricula and that adds to the workload of the teachers.

"We had to change the curricula because we need to respond to change," he said, adding that today's education emphasised more on living skills because the people need to learn about new technologies.

"If we do not adapt to the times, we will be left behind and we do not want that to happen to our society.

"We want ourselves to be respected and therefore teachers must accept these changes although they present an extra burden," he added.