

Upgrade skills for growth, says PM

5 - 20 JUL 1994

PENANG: Skills development is essential if Malaysia wants to achieve a higher economic growth, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said the Government was giving great emphasis to its human resources development as it believed that the people were its main assets.

"The quality of work is one of the important factors for us to attain a more encouraging growth in our economy.

"However, efforts to train

and equip the people with skills should not be the sole responsibility of the Government.

"It is the responsibility of everybody — employers, workers, unions, training centres, schools and parents," he said in his speech when officiating at the opening of the Penang Skills Development Centre's (PSDC) new building in Bayan Baru.

Dr Mahathir said it was disheartening that there were certain quarters who felt that it was the Government's total re-

sponsibility to ensure that the people acquire skills and technical know-how.

The workers themselves, he added, should make efforts to improve their skills and acquire new skills.

He said the Government had set aside some 13 per cent of its total budget for the Sixth Malaysia Plan for education and training.

Dr Mahathir said the setting-up of the PSDC was timely as it could play a catalytic role to help the country meet the de-

mand for skilled workers.

He added that the centre was a good example of close co-operation between the state government, Federal Government, and the private sector.

Dr Mahathir also opened Kolej Antarabangsa which was set up in response to the Government's call to make Malaysia a regional centre for education.

The college is a joint venture between IJM Corporation Bhd and the Penang Development Corporation.