

MINDSET MUST CHANGE

**Shed bureaucratic attitudes,
PM tells government officials**

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PETALING JAYA: Government officials have a long way to go in shedding their bureaucratic mindset, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

Commenting on the radar breakdown at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang, here, he said although the Look-East policy was implemented 10 years ago, "people do not change so easily."

"Ten years is too short a time for their attitudes to change," said Dr Mahathir after witnessing the United States Air Force Thunderbirds air demonstration here yesterday.

It was the second time this week the Prime Minister had criticised airport officials over the handling of the terminal approach radar fire on Aug 13.

On Thursday, Dr Mahathir chided airport officials for being incompetent and not taking their jobs seriously.

Commenting on Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang's call for the resignation of Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, the Prime Minister said:

"It's easy for them (the Oppo-

sition) to say because they are not the ones who are responsible."

He reiterated that last week's fire which disabled the airport's approach radar system should not be covered up.

"We should report it ... We cannot hide anything," he said when asked about a statement by the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) that media reports on the Aug 13 fire could harm the image of the country.

Dr Mahathir was grateful to Thomson-CSF, the manufacturer of the damaged radar, for of-

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fering to replace the equipment knocked out in the fire for free.

"I want to thank the French company for their offer.

"I hope that there will be no allegation of corruption. The best thing is for other companies to make similar offers," he added.

Asked whether the Government intended to buy the F-16 Fighting Falcon similar to the ones at the air show yesterday, Dr Mahathir said there were no such plans.
