

Stress on education to continue

By K.P. Waran and Zulkifli Shukor

BAGAN SERAI, Fri. — The Government is committed to improving educational standards as evident from the many schools, colleges and universities it has opened and it would continue to place emphasis on improving the quality of education, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said providing a sound education was important in ensuring that the people were able to advance themselves and play an important role in ensuring the attainment of developed status for the country by the year 2020.

The Barisan Nasional Government has always allocated 20 per cent of its Budget towards education and training. This is higher than many developed countries which allocated billions of dollars for the manufacture and supply of arms and weapons.

The United Nations World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen last month had agreed to the non-binding principle that developed nations devote 20 per cent of aid to basic human concerns and the recipients allocate 20 per cent of their national budgets to the same cause.

The United Nations Development Programme has defined basic human concerns as primary health care, primary education and food security.



MORE REPORTS ON PAGES 2,4,5,6 & 7

Dr Mahathir, who was speaking at the opening of the Kerian Vocational Secondary School here, said since independence the Alliance and later the BN Government had placed the welfare of the people above everything else when implementing its programmes and policies.

"One has only to review our past achievements in the field of education, health care, social services and other sectors. While other countries are struggling to attain their set targets in these fields, we have reached a comfortable stage where we are focusing on further improving the services," he said.

"Opposition parties also realise, this and therefore during this election are raising trivial or non-issues since the major issues that affect the daily lives of the people have been taken care

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 2, COL 6

Don't back greedy politicians, people told

□ FROM PAGE ONE

of by the BN."

Also present at the function were Education Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and BN candidates in Perak.

Dr Mahathir also advised voters not to support politicians who were greedy and had the sole aim of attaining high positions.

The Prime Minister said many of these politicians, having failed in the bid to attain positions in one party, would readily establish new parties to achieve their goals.

He said the BN candidates were chosen with the sole aim of serving their voters and the country and it was evident that many were patient even if they did not gain higher positions in the party quickly.

"The impatient people who want everything for themselves would do anything to attain their ambitions and that includes bringing down the organisation if their attempts to achieve their goals failed."

He said Parti Melayu Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah had established the party after being disappointed at not being elected Umno president.

"He does not want to serve the people, the party or the country. He only wants to be the Prime Minister and he has shown that he would do anything to achieve that target. People who care for others and the nation should not support them."

He said Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang of the DAP, as his campaign strategy in Penang showed, wants to become a "Robocop", a machine devoid of emotion, feelings and a caring attitude.

"He wants to take his laser gun and destroy people. He wants to be the police, the prosecutor and executioner all in one. This shows his greed for power and obviously his style of government would not be one where there would be negotiations and compromise."

He said Pas, which claims to be an Islamic party, goes against the teachings of the Quran by using verses from the holy book for its campaign and political gains.

He said Pas supporters were so blinded by their allegiance to the *tok guru* in the party that they did not notice the faults and transgressions of Islamic tenets.

He cited as example the case of former Pas deputy Youth leader Mohamed Sabu who had admitted to being in a locked hotel room alone with a married woman but the Pas' leadership has allocated a "safe seat" for him to ensure his victory.

Later tonight, Dr Mahathir tonight urged the people of Penang to reject the DAP's politics of hatred that was detrimental to peace and racial harmony.

"Their's is politics of hatred ... ours is politics of development. The DAP depends on racial politics.... fanning racial sentiments during a general election," he said at a *ceramah* in Tanjung Tokong attended by more than 10,000 people who cheered him everytime he criticised or threw jibes at the Opposition.