

PM: Have more group tours for pupils to value heritage

19 FEB 2000

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said last night more group tours should be organised for schoolchildren to enable them to appreciate their heritage and the country's history.

The Prime Minister said at present such tours, which could help cultivate a love for the country among schoolchildren, were not frequently held.

"As such, the Ministry (of Culture, Arts and Tourism) should organise such tours. In Japan, for instance, chil-

dren are taken in groups to visit historical places, besides supermarkets and shopping complexes.

"This should be the focus of the Ministry so that children can be exposed to their heritage from a young age.

"This way, they will treasure their heritage, culture and the country's diversity."

The Prime Minister was speaking at the launch of Malacca Tourism Festival 2000 (MTF 2000) at Per-

siaran Kuala Lumpur City Centre.

Also present were Dr Mahathir's wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Wira Ali Rustam. Dr Mahathir later launched two books — one entitled "Visiting Malacca Means Visiting Malaysia" and the other on "Meeting, Incentive, Convention and Exposition".

He also witnessed the signing of several memorandums of understanding

to promote tourism and educational opportunities in Malacca.

MTF 2000 is organised by the Malacca Government and co-sponsored by Telekom Malaysia, Tenaga Nasional, DRB-HICOM Group, A' Famosa Resort, Kit Kat Nestle and United Engineering (M).

The New Straits Times is the official newspaper for the event, while Takaful Nasional is the official insurance company. — NST