

Cultivate good ties from young: PM

Youths reminded of importance
of having selfless leaders

By **Muhammad Husairy
Othman**
muhd@thesundaily.com

IPOH, Tues: Closer ties should be cultivated among youths of various races in the country as they will determine the shape of society to come.

Prime Minister Datuk Dr Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said this should be inculcated among the youths especially as Malaysia is a multi-racial nation.

"If one does not know how to maintain good ties among the various races when he is young, it will be more difficult to do so when he is older," Mahathir said.

This will make it difficult for us to develop such ties among the races, he said, hence the importance of moulding one's character and way of thinking from young.

While admitting that this is a formidable task, Mahathir said this will be the determining factor for the wellbeing of the country in the future.

"There should be more events where youths of the various races gather as one race - the Malaysian race," he said.

Mahathir said this in his opening speech during the national level Youth Day celebrations themed "Voluntarism the Catalyst for Unity" at the Perak Stadium tonight.

He stressed the importance of

all the races being united saying: "Although we have our own opinions on certain matters, we must always be together and remain united."

Mahathir also reminded youths of the importance of having responsible leaders who put the needs of others before their own.

"These leaders should be able to carry out the task in a serious and responsible manner and not be influenced or swayed by other elements," he said.

"We own the country and have the sole right to determine the outcome of our future," he said.

Mahathir, while stressing the importance of voluntarism among youths, also called upon youths in the country to reject negative ideals from foreign countries which place emphasis on self-gain.

"The very idea that greed and selfish acts are good should be rejected outright by local youths," he added.

Also present at the function were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri DiRaja Mohd Tajol Rosli Ghazali and Malaysian Youth Council President Saifuddin Abdullah.

At the function which was attended by some 30,000 people, Tajol was conferred the Tokoh Belia Kebangsaan 2001 award.