

Go all out for IT opportunities, teachers and students told

KOTA BARU: Teachers and students should make full use of the opportunities afforded by the information technology revolution, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Speaking at the opening of an IT awareness programme at Sek Men Keb Kubang Kerian 2 here yesterday, Dr Mahathir said Malaysians needed to move away from the men-

STAR 21 MAR 2001
tality of buying things and instead produce them locally.

"The Industrial Revolution 200 years ago made things cheaper and more affordable for the masses. The IT revolution now is much bigger. However, this revolution needs knowledge of science, technology, software development, hardware production and so on," said Dr Mahathir, who also launched the B-Wise, a

wireless broadband Internet access system for schools here. It is managed by KUB Telekomunikasi Sdn Bhd.

"Are we going to equip ourselves so that we can join the ranks of the developed, or are we going to keep on buying things that we need?" asked the Prime Minister, who then reiterated the government's commitment to provide IT facilities and infrastructure to

all Malaysians so that the nation can compete and "not be pushed around."

Dr Mahathir later witnessed the signing of three memoranda of understanding between KUB's subsidiaries and other private corporations.

The first MoU was between United Multimedia Sdn Bhd and KUB Telekomunikasi Sdn Bhd with Sun Microsystems Sdn Bhd and Cisco Sys-

tems, Vads Bhd and Apex Communications Group.

The second one was between KUB Telekomunikasi and Telekom Smart School, and the third between KUB Textile Sdn Bhd and Kurnia Insurance Bhd.

Dr Mahathir said a nation that merely buys hi-tech equipment from developed countries would end up colonised and unable to break out of

poverty.

Dr Mahathir, who later visited the Pengkalan Kubor Customs and Immigration Complex as well as Rantau Panjang town, also chided Malays for misusing the Internet.

"Malays misuse the Internet by using it to post hate messages on sites like *MahaZalim*, *MahaFiraun* and *MahaDajal*.

"Do you see such things on websites run by other races?"