

Don't depend on handouts: Dr M

SUN 16 JAN 2002

KUALA LUMPUR.

Tues: Malaysians should strive to free themselves from being dependent on others for a living.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today a society which develops a dependency on others will turn out weak.

"If possible, they should try on their own and avoid asking for or receiving aid. And even if they receive, they must try to pay back immediately," he said when addressing a group of orphans in an aid presentation ceremony at the Tabung Haji building here.

Mahathir said everyone in the country is responsible in determining his own well-being.

"We want Malaysians to be citizens who are a little too proud in terms of receiving aid.

"Instead, we shouldn't accept aid but strive to

fend for ourselves."

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Brig Gen (R) Datuk

Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin and Tabung Haji chairman Tan Sri Zainol Mahmood.

At the ceremony, 255 orphans from the Federal

Territory were awarded with school aid amounting to between RM150 and RM250 each.

The contribution came from corporate donors and individuals through the Federal Territory Muslim Orphans Welfare Association.