

THE STAR

DATE: 7 / 12 / 2009

## NCB modules should be retained, says Dr M

The Star - 7/12/09

**KUALA LUMPUR:** There is no need to revamp National Civics Bureau (NCB) training modules as they are fine in instilling the patriotic spirit among Malaysians, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The former prime minister felt that the bureau curriculum had helped foster unity as the courses conducted by the agency were attended by Malaysians of all races.

"No need to revamp. I think it is better to retain the modules," he told reporters after opening the World AIDS Day 2009 yesterday.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Abdul Aziz had said that the training modules would be revamped to better reflect the 1Malaysia concept introduced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The matter came into the spotlight when Selangor recently prohibited state civil servants and



**Raising awareness:** Dr Mahathir and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali applauding after a presentation by children of Tadika Setapak after the opening of World AIDS Day 2009 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — Bernama

students of higher educational institutions owned by the state from attending the courses, claiming that they were an indoctrination process by the Barisan Nasional government and aimed

at brainwashing Malaysians to hate opposition parties.

Dr Mahathir said he, too, had given talks at courses organised by the bureau, adding:

"Sometimes, people do not

understand the underlying value of the courses. I do not see anything bad about it, it explains the nation's history," he said.

Asked about Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's call for independent observers from Australia to monitor the next general election, Dr Mahathir said: "If it is a Caucasian, he will trust. If it's a Malay, it is otherwise."

Meanwhile, Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said the revamp of the courses would go on despite criticisms from many parties including Dr Mahathir.

The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department said the Government would continue with its decision as it was in line with the objective to unite the races in the country.

"They can say what they want but the Cabinet has already made its decision to change the curriculum," he told mStar Online yesterday.