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Change mindset about research, says Dr M

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SHAH ALAM: The Government has funds for research but it has not been distributed because of conventional mindsets.

Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the people in charge of these funds look at research as an investment and expect returns.

"Research is not about making profits. This

kind of thinking is not up to date," he said during a visit to I-City here yesterday.

I-City is an information and communications technology township located in Section 7, Shah Alam.

Dr Mahathir said given the mindset, people involved in research would find it difficult to obtain funds to carry out their work.

"You are going to have problems interacting with the Government. I am sorry," he said.

He said the Government should have an

open mind and offer support even if the officers in charge do not understand some of the things involved.

Dr Mahathir said research was all about acquiring information and making discoveries.

He said one of the things Malaysia must do was to set-up incubators for young people with ideas to create new things.

This, he said, was important, as the country had moved away from the labour intensive industries of the past into brain intensive

industries.

On another matter, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia should develop homegrown investments instead of depending on foreign direct investment.

He said local investors should be nurtured and allowed to grow as world-class entrepreneurs.

Also at the event was former Science, Technology and Environment Minister Tan Sri Law Hieng Ding.