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Dr M: Our history textbooks are inaccurate

ALOR SETAR: In light of recent attempts to change historical facts about the country, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said what happened in the past needs to be clearly explained but must not be influenced by current politics.

The former prime minister said current textbooks were inaccurate as they had not given a clear background on the fight for the nation's independence.

"Not much is mentioned on the roles played by leaders such as first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra. Because of this, the younger generation do not understand the country's history and origin," he said after a ground-breaking ceremony of the Sultan Abdul Halim College Centennial Hall here yesterday.

Kedah Ruler Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah graced the event.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on a recent statement by Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Khaled Nordin that the history syllabus for schools would be revised following new findings of the nation's past.

Mohd Khaled said scholar Tan Sri Prof Syed Muhammad Naquib Al-Attas had uncovered facts that contradict parts of the accepted text today, including periods before the coming of the Westerners.