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Malaysians need to master English, says Dr M

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KAJANG: Malaysians should master the English language as it has become the language of the world, said former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Malaysian students had to master English, especially in Science and Mathematics, in order to communicate on the global front.

"We may be fluent in our own language, but to compete with the world, we must be able to speak English well," Dr Mahathir said during a special session at the 11th Malaysia Festival of the Mind pro-

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Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad



gramme at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman's Sg Long campus yesterday.

The event, themed "Sharpening your Mind, Boosting your Brain",

was organised by the Malaysia Mental Literacy Movement (MMLM), Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) and Tunku Abdul Rahman University College.

The session was moderated by Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik, who is UTAR council chairman.

Dr Mahathir said with the advancement in technology and the development of new inventions, students must be fluent in English as well as other disciplines or risk being left behind.

"If you do not have a good command of English, you cannot communicate. English is the language of today especially in Science and Mathematics," he said.

Dr Ling, who is also the MMLM chairman, said the country had progressed tremendously despite it being a multi-cultural and multi-re-

ligious society.

"We grow up and go to school, develop our own societal norms, and as one community, we share the nation together.

"Although once in a while you will hear someone shout about extremism, that is only because he was badly brought up," he said.

He said the majority of the people proved to be moderate and peaceful and did not believe in extremism.

"As Malaysians, we are one community. And we have progressed very, very far," he said.

MMLM's objective is to promote techniques on improving mental literacy among Malaysians.