

# 'Lack of civic-mindedness destructive'

> It's not my problem' attitude should be discarded, says Tun M

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**PUTRAJAYA:** The lack of civic-mindedness and respect for property will only end up destroying the nation in the long run, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He emphasised the importance of instilling civic values in children so that they could grow to become adults with respect for society and the environment.

"The attitude 'it is not my problem' among people must be done away with," he said at the launch of the National Civic Education Plan here yesterday.

"People must take responsibility for their surroundings. The idea and mindset that a person can take whatever he wants because he thinks no one is watching and no action will be taken against him must end."

Mahathir also touched on the issue of toilets, a topic many Malaysians would be embarrassed to talk about.

He said he was ashamed of the condition of some of the toilets he came across on his



Mahathir with Education Minister Maszlee Malik and Deputy Education Minister Teo Nie Ching at the launch of the National Civic Education Plan in Putrajaya yesterday. - **ASHRAF SHAMSUL/THESUN**

"inspection rounds", finding many in a repulsive state.

"The inability to keep a place clean reflects the mindset of those who lack civic-consciousness."

Speaking of graffiti, Mahathir said they were

found all over the nation's capital, on building walls and public property.

"It is the duty of educators to instil in students the importance of civic values, especially now as parents are too busy."

Mahathir urged Malaysians to have respect

for others and always be responsible for their surroundings.

He also commended those who gave up their time to help in the search for missing Irish teenager Nora Anne Quoirin, as examples of civic-minded individuals.