

# Dr M: Malays' success in all fields vital

IPOH, Tues. — Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the success of the Malays in all fields was the key to the formation of a Malaysian race.

He said that if Malays were knowledgeable, economically-successful and politically and socially strong and not involved in corruption, non-Malays would find it easier to accept the concept of a Malaysian race.

He said that although the process appeared difficult because of diversity in religion, language and culture, it would be more acceptable to the Chinese, Indians and other races, if they could see Malay success in all fields.

Dr Mahathir said this at a lecture, entitled "Formation of Race and Country", at Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) in

Tronoh, near here.

He cited the example of the United States, where the success and wealth of the Anglo-Saxons prompted immigrants from every corner of the world to accept English as the national language and themselves as Americans.

"We, in Malaysia, have yet to form a Malaysian race although we want to be one race. We are now a combination of races recognised as the people of Malaysia," he said.

To a question posed by a National Service trainee who wanted to know the reason why the Vision School programme has such a poor response, Dr Mahathir said that the emphasis by some people on clothing and other things deemed Islamic gave non-Muslims the impression that national schools were for Muslims. — Bernama

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