

# Dr M: Vital to master science, tech, maths

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**SERDANG:** Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged the people to master science, technology and mathematics if the country is to become a high-income nation.

He said such knowledge is imperative in developing the nation's capability in invention, research and innovation, which will take it towards achieving its target.

He said there are high-income countries that have developed their research and innovation to the point of producing weapons that could inflict damage in a much broader way.

"If we do not possess such knowledge, we have to rely on those who have it; they could invent a weapon to go against us.

"(If that happens) we will once again become a nation under the rule of foreign power," he said at the opening of Innovation, Research and Innovation

Exhibition at Universiti Putra Malaysia here yesterday.

Mahathir added that it is also important for the country to develop heavy and production-based industries to further boost its internal revenue.

"If we only buy imported products, we won't be able to increase the number of workforce in the country... we will only be able to become a consumer society," he said.

"If we do that, we will not be able to provide adequate jobs, our money will be flowing out to the foreign countries and we will become a poor nation," he added.

He stressed that the government's policy in protecting the market of local industries is important to avoid an influx of imported products into the country.

"Local industry is necessary (to develop the nation)... if we open our market too much and allow the influx of imported products, our industry will not be able to compete and might go bankrupt," he said.