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'Set aside national budget for research'

KUALA LUMPUR: The government should allocate a national budget for research and development, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said the budget should be increased gradually, with R&D seen as work that could ensure long-term profitability for the country.

"Maybe not three per cent yet, but slowly working up to three per cent," he said at the 25th anniversary celebrations of Mimos at the Technology Park Malaysia near here.

He said Malaysians should do away with the mentality that carrying out R&D was costly.

"We still have some problems where people misunderstand research and development. We are ready to use other people's research and products of their research but for us, research is something quite new.

"If we want to ensure future profits, we must have R&D," he added. — Bernama