

IMPROVE ON INHERITED VALUES: PM

14 MAR 1990

'Incorporate new ethics with the old'

BANGI, Tues. — Datuk Seri ~~Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~ said that society, while accepting inherited systems of values and ethics, must also make serious efforts to improve on them.

The prime minister said society must learn to scrutinise these values and separate what was good and bad.

It must also be able to incorporate them with new values which studies had shown could bring about the success and development of the nation, he said.

"Usually, the ethics of a society are based on inherited traditions without their being actively developed.

"However, a modern society cannot just simply accept its heritage without considering what is good and bad.

"Therefore, we should also study, identify and choose only good values and be prepared to add to the values which can bring about success and development of our society," he said when opening a seminar on ethics and management at the Petronas management training institute here today.

Dr Mahathir said trustworthiness was an important ingredient in management, without which the instructions given and work done would not be able to produce the desired results.

He added that good ethical values in management not only produced maximum results but also shortened the period over

which results were achieved and did away with too much supervision.

"With trust, not much supervision is required to ensure that work is carried out according to instructions.

"The need for supervision suggests that we are working under conditions of distrust," he added.

Dr Mahathir said that similarly, society also needed instructions to prevent anarchy from occurring.

"The better the management, the better the achievements of an organisation or society."

Dr Mahathir also said that institutions of higher learning had the responsibility of producing managers, political leaders and corporate leaders of high ethical and moral fibre.

He said that so far these institutions had been concentrating on academic achievement without giving much thought and attention to moral quality.

"The time has come for greater emphasis to be given to the question of ethics and a means to test the moral qualities of the graduates being produced.

"It is important that they equip themselves with a strong ethical background and awareness as a tool to distance themselves from negative characteristics," he said.

The two-day seminar, which is being attended by government officers, is organised by Universiti Utara Malaysia and Petronas.