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MAHATHIR URGES STUDENTS TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE

Mahathir - students

From Abdul Rahman Sulaiman ^{OT}
bm ²

DUBLIN, Sept 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk-Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged Malaysian **students** overseas to make use of every available opportunity to acquire as much knowledge and experience as possible to face even **more** challenging days.

They should also practice spiritual values and should not fall prey to negative influences opposed to religious teachings and the traditions of Malaysian society.

He said sound knowledge, good experience and noble values **coupled** with a sense of responsibility would not only help them in their own progress but, also that of the nation.

He said the country's dignity would be enhanced and others would respect Malaysia if the people were cultured, educated and had good values.

Malaysia needed people and manpower that were of quality in its efforts to realise Vision 2020, he added.

Addressing about 100 Malaysian students from throughout Ireland at a special get-together here yesterday, the Prime Minister said the government was spending **much every year** to send Malaysians overseas not just because there was a shortage of place at local universities; but also to enable **them** to acquire the experience which they probably could not get in Malaysia. -- **more**

▼24/09/19-47MST

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The Prime Minister urged the student::; not to isolate **themselves** and feel shy to mix with the people in the localities where they were studying .

+If we mix only among ourselves and isolate ourselves from the local community then the original aim of the government, in sending the students overseas will not be realised,+ he said.

+Then it will be better if we just study in our own country,+ he added.

The Prime Minister said by learning the way of life of other::; they would be able to assess their strength and weaknesses and adapt good values and reject **the negative** ones practised by Western society.

+Moral decadence, rejection of social institutions such as marriages and **family** life and **other** negative elements in certain western societies should not be **emulated**,+ he said.

The Prime Minister also reminded the students to be **always** alert to propaganda dished out by certain groups **in** the country, **who** aimed to sidetrack them for political aims. -- more

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