

Backing for high ethical standards

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Several organisations have come out strongly in support of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's views on the importance of high moral and ethical standards to effectively curb crime in society.

National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM) executive director Wan Yusoff Wan Ismail said the chamber has always stressed ethics and morals as basic values that the business sector should have.

He added that with these basic values, the private sector would be able to undertake its role as the engine of the country's economic growth effectively.

"Ethics, honesty and morals are the foundation for a strong and efficient private sector. These values are also crucial to develop a harmonious and prosperous society," he said.

Aware that ethics and morals are vital in business, the NCCIM had in early 1980s came out with its own code of conduct.

Wan Yusoff said the code of business ethics was published and distributed to all NCCIM members.

Last Tuesday, Dr Mahathir stated that crimes in any society could be effectively checked if society has high moral and ethical stan-

dards

He had also said that when moral and ethical standards were low, not only would crime spread but the capacity of such a society to succeed and to prosper would be very limited.

Sooner, rather than later, such a society would destroy itself, the Prime Minister added at a seminar on **Business ethics: Leadership and corporate responsibility** at Genting Highlands.

Malaysian Employers Federation executive director Zain Majid said he fully supported Dr Mahathir's views and called on leaders of all sectors, including corporate figures, to adhere strictly to the desired moral and ethical standards to set a fine example for those down the line.

He said that related laws ought to be reviewed from time to time to ensure there

would be no escape for offenders.

Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations president Hamdan Adnan said Fomca fully endorsed Dr Mahathir's statement.

"Every Malaysian should subscribe to the need to be morally upright. A lot of people are getting rich by adopting dubious or crooked means and getting away with it. This does not augur well for our society in the long run," he said.

Hamdan said leaders should set a good example and added that the leadership by example concept should be carried out religiously.

He urged leaders to be exemplary models of high morality, integrity and dedication.

He said history was replete with the example of nations which had collapsed

due to moral disintegration and rampant corruption.

"The examples include ancient Greece and Rome and even the Malacca Sultanate collapsed due to widespread corruption and wayward leadership," he said.

He said parents, teachers and religious leaders should play a positive role in inculcating religious and moral values among the people.

Former Malaysian Medical Association president Dr Pius Martin, in agreeing with Dr Mahathir's views, said the importance of high moral and ethical standards in medical practice was ingrained in medical students during lectures.

He said because of the special relationship between doctors and patients, trust and confidence in the moral and ethical fibre of a doctor were vital.