

PM: Ethical values needed to prosper

S 29 JUL 1993

KUALA LUMPUR: Selective ethical values must be studied and propagated among managers in the public and private sectors if the country wants to prosper, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said last night.

The Prime Minister said managers, executives and professionals were expected to play a major role in the nation's development towards achieving Vision 2020.

"Ethical values need to be thoroughly studied and deliberately propagated if society wishes to prosper," he said.

"And nowhere must it be propagated more than among those most concerned with spearheading the country's development — the executives in the Government and the private sector," he said in his address on *Establishing A Fully Moral and Ethical Society in Malay-*

sia at the Harvard Club dinner.

He stressed what was needed was a set of values made up usually of all the accepted virtues.

They include diligence, honesty, reasonable patience, discipline, determination, dedication, grit, concentration, attention to detail, ability to work with others and humility.

Dr Mahathir said one of the causes of massive commercial crimes in

some developed societies was the total breakdown of religious faith.

One important teaching of Islam and of most other religions was the presence of God everywhere, he said, adding that for the faithful, "nothing that a person does is free from scrutiny."

"This reduces temptation. He may still do it of course. But he does it with fear of final retribution," he said.