

# Acquire knowledge for a better future

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the people should spend enough time to acquire knowledge and skills so that the country could be better equipped in the future.

At the same time, efforts should also be made to instil good, strong values so that there would be a balance between physical success and spiritual well-being, the Prime Minister said.

He said the country's economy had moved from a basic industry — agriculture — into an area which was not too difficult to master. This is often referred to as the screwdriver assembly, meaning the worker is only required to operate using a screwdriver.

Over the years, the worker gained confidence and other abilities which were later upgraded. With experience, the worker could also be trained so that he would be capable of doing other things as well.

Dr Mahathir said the country need not "reinvent the wheel", but that it should learn to utilise the existing technology, improve on them and strive to eventually master the most sophisticated of them.

Dr Mahathir said he was of the opinion that not everything being done had been good. There could be some negative effects, he added.

The Prime Minister said: "When we have identified the negative elements, we should take steps to rectify them. This is being done. That is why we place emphasis on good and clean values, Islamic values ... that could help provide a balance between physical success and spiritual well-being.

"We are doing this now. We won't say we've succeeded 100 per cent. There will be those who will be more greedy, but I hope the number is small."