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PROMOTING MORAL VALUES, ETHICS AND A CARING ATTITUDE

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today moral values, ethics and a caring attitude should be promoted in efforts to develop the country into an industrialised nation.

"Although we have to produce an industrialised society that was efficient in all aspects, able to meet the local needs and foreign demand by emphasising on commercial value, we should not set aside other values which are equally vital in the process towards developing a healthy and united nation," he said.

"The achievement of development and progress that is merely based on one specific value would create imbalance to the spiritual and physical development of society," he said when opening the Public Bank's Vision Park here.

"That was why within the nine challenges promoted under Vision 2020, moral values, ethics and a caring attitude are essential pre-requisites to make the country progressive in all aspects," he said.

These values would develop a balanced Malaysian society in line with Vision 2020 and would lead the country towards development and progress without any loss or neglect in social aspects, he said. -- more.

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Mahathir also said that moral values, for instance, would provide a strong spiritual basis in the country's effort to achieve progress and could develop a society with social conscience besides having a clear understanding on goodness and the importance of liberalism, tolerance and social justice.

He said that the Western countries which had earlier attained development, focussing on materialism and setting aside other values, were now facing social problems.

"Their cities have decayed with roads cracked, rubbish everywhere and parks unkempt and dangerous to visitors," he said.

He said that the city dwellers no longer had civic pride and they dirty their surroundings and their towns have become gloomy and the lives of the city dwellers are no longer comfortable and this did not encourage efforts towards success whether it be in business or the arts and culture.

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The Prime Minister said that economic value should be complemented by aesthetic value or beauty.

"An organisation's achievement should not be reflected merely in monetary terms, profits or materialistic success. It should be balanced with other values like love for beauty, the arts, culture and sports excellence," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that at present the open space in the city for recreation only measured 667 ha and as such proper planning was required.

The Prime Minister buried a time capsule containing among others, a copy of the working paper on "Malaysia - The Way Forward" containing details on Vision 2020, at the Public Bank foyer.

At the function, the chairman of Public Bank, Tan Sri Thong Yaw Hong, presented a cheque for RM20,000 to the Prime Minister's wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, an president of the Malaysian Girl Guides Association. -- Bernama

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