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Mahathir-skills

STRESS TO BE ON VOCATIONAL THAN ACADEMIC EDUCATION

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- The government will switch the emphasis from academic to vocational and technical education to yield skilled workers and entrepreneurs, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"This will enable the country to head for a new era whereby people working in factories will earn more than those working in offices," he said when speaking at the presentation of the Malaysian Skills Award at the Technical Teachers College in Cheras here.

In this context, he urged entrepreneurs who required skilled workers to help the government build more training centres to produce the skilled workers they required.

Dr Mahathir said the country now required highly skillful and efficient workers in more sophisticated fields of work.

"I am convinced that we can acquire efficiency and knowledge in the various fields if we give our whole-hearted commitment towards the success of the country," he said. -- more

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15/08/20-09MST

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Dr Mahathir said every individual can become skillful by doing something repeatedly, in keeping with the maxim "practise makes perfect".

That was why, he said, youths and workers were encouraged to participate in as many competitions as possible to acquire skills in line with the country's policy to enter a more sophisticated industrial era.

Earlier, Deputy Works Minister Encik Kerk Choo Ting said in his speech that the country's economy had passed from one based on agriculture, low-cost production and labour-intensive industries to that of capital-intensive, high-technology and service-oriented. -- Bernama

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15/08/20-18MST