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Mahathir-Science

HABIT OF KEEPING KNOWLEDGE SECRET SHOULD BE DISCARDED, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the sharing of knowledge should be promoted as a culture in the country.

He said that Eastern culture hinders the development of knowledge as inventors and researchers tend to keep their discoveries or inventions secret.

Frequently, he said, their discoveries and inventions follow them to their graves as there were no proper records kept.

"As such, knowledge cannot spread and develop in the East unlike in the West," he said when opening the National Science Centre here.

He said that if Malaysia wish to strive for progress and to keep abreast with developments in the West, the country needs to acquire not only certain knowledge especially in the scientific field but also to promote the culture of sharing of knowledge like in the West.

"The habit of keeping our knowledge secret so that we alone can gain the benefits should be immediately discarded," he said.

In this regard, the Prime Minister urged Malaysians to develop the habit of making a note of each step taken and every results derived from the move.

"The memory of human beings is weak and cannot be relied on at all but the immediate notes will not only make research work easier but also can be followed up by others if anything happened to the researcher," he said.

Dr Mahathir also pointed out that the weaknesses of Muslims were due to their shallow knowledge in science among themselves.

They believe that science is a knowledge of non-Muslims and finally they had to depend on non-Muslims to reap the benefits from the subject including the knowledge in medicine, arms and communication equipment, he said.

"The names of Islamic scholars are fast disappearing from the eyes of the world and they are no longer known as Ibnu Sina who is now called Avicenna and Ibnu Rushdi becomes Averroes," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government wants to correct this and wished to see the development of knowledge not only related to science but also to correct the misconception on science and researches in that field.

As such, the setting up of the National Science Centre is not merely to become an entertainment centre or a tourism product but to make the people particularly the Malays and Bumiputeras to realise and to master science and technology and its role in their daily lives.

"What is required is not extraordinary talents but the will to reject old beliefs and to open up their minds to possibilities which are considered extraordinary and impossible before," he said.

Earlier, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding said the centre, which would become an international standard science centre, could enhance the image of science and technology as an amazing aspect in everyday live.

It is equipped with a multimedia centre, science laboratory, three workshops and a auditorium. -- BERNAMA

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