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Mahathir-Computer

PM WANTS MALAYSIANS TO BE COMPUTER LITERATE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysians should know how to use computers and accessing information needed since computer literacy will be a major requirement in the future.

The Prime Minister said Malaysians from all walks of life should familiarise themselves with computers, better still at an early age to overcome, if any, fear of the technology.

"I'm confident that everyone will eventually know how to use computers, the Internet and so on if they spend 15 or 20 minutes of their time daily using computers," he said when inaugurating the Yayasan WangsaMaju (YWM) here.

Dr Mahathir said computer literacy is in line with the government's aspirations to make Malaysia one of the leading countries to take advantage of computers and information technology.

In this respect, he commended move by YWM to supply computers to schools in Wangsa Maju to expose students to multimedia and Internet.

The YWM has embarked on its first project to set up "Wangsanet", a computer network linking schools in Wangsa Maju. It has supplied 70 multimedia computers to private and public schools including a school for the handicapped in the area for the purpose.

It had also set up a mobile multimedia library equipped with seven computers and another computer as Internet Server for residents in the area.

Dr Mahathir said the private sector played an important role in supplementing government's efforts to enhance computer literacy among the people.

During the function, the Prime Minister received RM3 million in contributions for the YWM's fund.

Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali spent more than an hour at the Computer and Internet Exhibition organised by schools in Wangsa Maju.

Dr Mahathir, who was on a his half-day working visit to Kuala Lumpur Federal Territory, later joined Muslims for Friday prayers at the Sri Rampai Mosque.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman presented the sermon during the prayers.

The YWM's chairman is Datuk Dr Kamal Salih who is also MP for Umno divisional chief for Wangsa Maju. --BERNAMA

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