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PM: Malaysia still needs rules and regulations

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said Malaysia still needs some form of rules and regulations to safely see itself into the future despite mounting pressures on deregulation and liberalisation.

"We still need discipline in our society because if we don't, we are going to hurt other people," he said in a speech at the Royal Military College (RMC)'s Old Putera Association Annual Dinner in Petaling Jaya.

"We are now passing through a new age where values have changed. Many people think that discipline, orderliness and regulations are not good," he said.

He added that these people believe that they should be free to do anything they like, "but I don't think that will help society at all".

"I am the son of a former headmaster who believes in disciplining his children and I now try to discipline the whole country... (but) not with very great success.

"And now I am being disciplined by market forces," he said in jest.

Dr Mahathir said he is "glad that the RMC still sticks to that kind of discipline and orderliness that will help its students when they graduate and join the society".

He said many of RMC past graduates did very well in life simply because they were well-trained in their jobs. "We place a premium to the kind of military discipline that is taught at the RMC."

To date, over 4,000 Puteras have graduated from Royal Military College.

Dr Mahathir said the discipline and training students get at the RMC are very "wholesome".

"It develops the personality and the character of the young which will stand them in good stead when they grow older," he added.

Dr Mahathir also said Malaysia is a young country and thus, it is not strange that it should have young institutions.

"But we should set the standards now so that the future will be something that will last and be remembered by all as the kind of future resulting from the kind of training and character building similar to that one undergoes while he is in military college," he said.

At the same function, Dr Mahathir received a cheque for RM200,000 for Danaharta Negara, the newly-formed asset management company.

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