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PM: Muslims need skills in science, technology

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Recognising the importance of education, especially in science and technology, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government is striving to upgrade the people's skills in these fields.

The Prime Minister said Muslims could only achieve progress if they were equipped with skills in science and technology.

"It is no use if a person has skills but is of low moral as this will damage his ownself, the community and the country," Dr Mahathir said in his remarks contained in the souvenir programme of the Maal Hijrah celebrations.

The national-level celebration themed "Country's Wellbeing, Our Responsibility" was launched by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar at Pusat Islam.

Some 1,300 people attended the celebration.

Dr Mahathir said although the country was going through economic problems, the Government would continue to develop the nation.

"Developing the country means developing the Ummah. Developing the Ummah is the way to propagate Islam," he said. "This cannot be done if Muslims are weak and backward."

The Government has made various efforts to develop the Ummah through education and this had resulted in the reduction in illiteracy, poverty and unemployment.

Illiteracy in Malaysia now stands at 12 per cent, the poverty rate at 8.9 per cent and unemployment at 2.5 per cent.

"Illiteracy of Muslims throughout the world is 40 per cent," he said.

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