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Mahathir-Youth

FORGE NEW VALUES FOR BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE- DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight said a new set of values for a new civilisation must be forged in an attempt to achieve a better quality of life for the people.

To achieve this, he said there was a need to build up a new generation of high-calibre visionaries to lead the world.

"The youths of today must equip themselves with all the the knowledge and analytical skills so that they may assess, accept or reject present-day values and concepts, and conceive new and more relevant values in keeping with the information age we are moving into," he said.

He said this in his speech at the opening of the Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting here. The Prime Minister's speech was read out by Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Dr Mahathir said while the old might no longer be suitable, the new could also be harmful if care was not exercised and the choices made were based on shallow knowledge or experience.

Dr Mahathir also said the youths of today were faced with a number of unprecedented challenges with society and governments no longer in a position to protect and mould the future generation.

The prime minister said human resources particularly the young must be fully developed to take on tough global challenges.

He expressed the hope that the meeting could contribute towards achieving peace and stability worldwide and prevent the exploitation of the weak which could cause social tension and disintegration.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku said Universiti Putra Malaysia would be the first of 16 tertiary institutions to launch the new Commonwealth Diploma in Youth in Development Studies this week.

On another note, he said a Commonwealth expert group was being organised to study how countries could best be protected against the destabilising effects of volatile capital movements.

The group, to be chaired by a former South African Finance Minister and consisting of 10 highly-qualified individuals including Malaysia's Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz from Bank Negara, will begin their deliberations in London next month.

"I hope that the outcome of their work will be useful to the international community especially the emerging economies which cannot, and should not, accept being perpetually consigned to playing in the second and third league in the global economy," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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