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Mahathir-Hijrah

GOVT STRIVING TO UPGRADE PEOPLE'S SKILLS

KUALA LUMPUR, April 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said the government is striving to upgrade the people's skills in various fields particularly in science and technology and wants them to have strong confidence in themselves and high morals.

The Prime Minister said it would be one point up if the people particularly Muslims in Malaysia were skilled in the field of science and technology as this would make Muslims more advanced.

"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 the souvenir programme of the Maal Hijrah celebrations.

The national level celebrations themed "Country's Wellbeing, Our Responsibility" were launched by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar at the Pusat Islam. Some 1,300 people attended the celebrations.

Dr Mahathir said even though the country was going through an economic crisis it would not dampen the government's zeal to develop the nation.

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

The government was making efforts to propagate Islam and develop the Ummah through education and this had resulted in the reduction in the illiteracy rate, poverty level and unemployment.

The illiteracy rate in Malaysia at present was 12 per cent, the poverty rate was 8.9 per cent and the unemployment rate 2.5 per cent.

The world illiteracy rate was 40 per cent, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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