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Mahathir-Morals

IMMORALITY DESTROYS SOCIETY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

ALOR SETAR, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded Malaysians that a society that nurtures immorality while pursuing national progress is only headed for destruction.

"A society with high knowledge but low morals is a destroyed society," he said.

Western society's contention was that they could do as they wished in the name of freedom, he said at the presentation of the Iskandar Award and inauguration of the computer laboratory of the Sultan Abdul Hamid College, his alma mater, here.

The prime minister also said despite her beleaguered economy now, Malaysia was confident that its objective to attain developed status by year 2020 was achievable.

The prime minister said present day students should be grateful for the ample opportunities in education unlike the limited facilities of the pre-Independence era.

They were also indebted to society which helped provide them with a decent life and various necessities, he said.

"We can show our gratitude by repaying society," he said.

At the function, Dr Mahathir presented the Iskandar Award to Mohamed Sani Abu Hassan, an upper six form arts student for all-round excellence and leadership.

The award was named after Dr Mahathir's father and the college's first principal Mohamad Iskandar.

Mohamad was principal from 1908 to 1910.

Dr Mahathir studied at the college until he completed his Senior Cambridge level.

The college is also the alma mater of first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman and Malaysia's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations Tan Sri Razali Ismail.

"I so pleased to be here. It's been so long since my last visit," said Dr Mahathir.

There were so many changes there in terms of the school, the facilities, the students and the medium of instruction, he said.

After the award presentation, Dr Mahathir opened the college's computer laboratory.

Dr Mahathir's son Mirzan, also a former student of the college, donated 80 computers to the laboratory and funded its renovation.

The prime minister later launched the college's homepage.

"This is a very good facility and I am sure it will be used by students at this college to enhance their knowledge," Dr Mahathir typed onto the homepage's visitors book.

He also toured the college library and shook hands with students.

He was accompanied by wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid.

-- BERNAMA

JM rn