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PM: Technology without morality a bane of nations

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday cited technological development, without morality, as one of the reasons for the economic and currency problems in the country.

Dr Mahathir said a modern technology, which lacks morality, can make a rich country becomes poor as "the main aim is to make as much money possible".

Unlike in the past where it took a long time to move commodities from one place to the other, the marvel of modern technology makes it possible to sell US\$1 trillion (US\$1 = RM.....) in one split second.

They (currency traders) merely have to move figures on the TV (television) screens connected worldwide, he said at Limkokwing Institute of Creative Technology (LICT) in Petaling Jaya.

"Today, it is not necessary to move currency at all ... move figures on the TV screen which is connected worldwide so that a transaction in Malaysia is also reflected on the computer screens in New York, London, Tokyo and elsewhere.

"It is now possible to buy and sell trillions of dollars without moving one single dollar.

"In one day, it is possible now through modern technology to trade in trillions of dollars of currency as a commodity.

"Millions of people are starving and there are children without food and medicine ... impoverished by traders who move figures across nations on the TV screens.

"It doesn't matter that these people are suffering because the main thing is to make money and be rich and modern technology enables this huge trade to be carried out," he said.

He also suggested the institutions of higher learning offer courses on moral values together with technology courses for students.

"We still believe that morality is good for the society and we should cling on to our high values so that we will not lose the balance between the good and the bad," he said.

He lauded LICT president Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing for setting up the institute, saying that it is a good idea as Malaysia's aim is the train creative people, not only locals but also foreigners, and become the centre of excellence in education.

"We want more foreign students to study in Malaysia.

"In the past, Malaysia has a record of sending the most number of students overseas. They returned richer from that experience.

"But it is also important for others to learn about Malaysia and there is no better way to do it than by staying here for a few years," he added.

LICT, which was set up in 1982, has an enrolment of 2,000 students including foreigners from 15 countries.

It offers, among others, courses on graphic and multimedia design, public relations, journalism, merchandising, animation, advertising, architecture, broadcasting and television and sound production.

Over the past two years, it won 40 creative technology awards from national and international competitions.

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