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Mahathir-Technology

TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT MORALITY IS DAMAGING, SAYS PM

PETALING JAYA, March 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who cautioned that technology without morality can result in damaging consequences to a lot of people, has suggested that local universities conduct courses on moral values as well.

Foreign lecturers whom he met were also of the opinion that universities should have "chair of ethics", said the prime minister when addressing students of the Limkokwing Institute of Creative Technology here today.

"One of the reasons for the problem that we are facing today -- the economy and currency turmoil -- is due to the development of technology," he told them.

When approached by reporters later to elaborate on striking a balance between moral values and technology, Dr Mahathir said several foreign academicians he spoke to agreed that the present rapid technological advancement has given power to those in command of the technology.

"If they don't strike a balance between technology with high moral values, technology may be used in a way not only unbeneficial but also destructive to society," he said.

The prime minister told the students earlier that the marvel of modern technology was that it was possible to sell one trillion dollars in one split second.

"It should be good for us but unfortunately it is not good for some countries including Malaysia," he said.

In the past, he said, commodity traders needed ships, trains and long periods to move the commodities from one destination to another but things have changed now.

At present, people could trade in currencies without the necessity to move the currencies at all.

"They merely have to move figures on the TV screens connected worldwide," he said.

The actual amount of money they were supposed to trade could amount to trillions of dollars but they could do so without having to move a single dollar, the prime minister said.

The prime minister expressed confidence that the institute would play a great role in producing creative talents in Malaysia.

Since it also catered for foreign students, the institute would also have to create a balance between technology and moral values in other countries as well to benefit society as a whole, he said.

Dr Mahathir hoped foreigners coming to study in Malaysia would not only confine themselves to the knowledge sought for, but also learn about the Malaysian way of life.

It would be a waste if foreign students did not utilise the time they were here to learn about Malaysian cultures, he said.

"It is only when we understand the culture and the way of life of different peoples that we can learn to appreciate and to be more tolerant of them," he said.

The world was very much in need of tolerance because with the rapid technological development, values such as tolerance for the differences found among other people, might be forgotten, he said.

Asked later by reporters about employment prospects for fresh graduates in light of the prevailing economic setbacks, Dr Mahathir said jobs are

indeed available.

Even if there are no jobs for them, they could always be self-employed as long as they have the will, he said.

"We must not bother so much about where the job is, how much the pay. If we want to be like before by making unreasonable demands, then it'll be difficult," he added.-- BERNAMA

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