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Mahathir-Teachers

PERPETUATE NOBLE VALUES, TEACHERS TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, May 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on teachers to further instil and promote noble and cultural values among students to ensure the nation's progress.

He said that this was most vital now as there were attempts by various elements to erode cultural values and retard the nation's effort to develop the country.

"I hope that teachers in Malaysia will shoulder this burden with full responsibility as the future of the race and the nation lies in their hands," he said when launching the national-level Teachers' Day celebration, here.

Some 4,500 educators and teachers from throughout the country attended the celebration.

Dr Mahathir said that noble cultural values should always be perpetuated by the people in the country as it would indicate the success or failure of a race.

The prime minister said that teachers play a very important role in society as they were actually responsible in instilling cultural values in a successful society.

He said that a teacher's role is not confined to only providing knowledge but also cover responsibility in promoting noble cultural values subscribed to by students.

"Before we provide knowledge, we will need to determine that such knowledge will be used well by the students so that when they become adults and become a member of society, they will make good use of the knowledge they have gained.

"They cannot think for themselves the values that may be good for them...they don't learn about their culture but absorb them automatically," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the people in the country would be able to withstand the threats of destructive Western culture if they strongly uphold their noble cultural values.

The trend of "doing your own thing" in the West had caused moral decay in the Western society and this so-called right of individual freedom should be discarded, he said.

Such individual right had resulted in young people carrying guns to school and killing their innocent schoolmates, he said.

"This cannot be said to be civilised culture. Do we need to follow this?" he said.

The prime minister said that there were some in the country without principles beginning to do whatever was done in the West including swearing.

He hoped that the local community would exercise wisdom in using the knowledge acquired for the betterment of the race and nation.

"Some good things if misused can cause destruction and some dangerous things, if use properly can bring benefit," he said.

The prime minister cited as example combustible materials which were dangerous but could be used in rocket engines and car engine cylinders.

Dr Mahathir hoped that teachers would in turn obtain satisfaction in helping to promote culture to enable the nation to attain progress.

-- BERNAMA

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