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PM reminds students why they were sent overseas

P. Selvarani in London

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday reminded Malaysian students that they were sent abroad to obtain an education, and not condemn the Government.

Dr Mahathir said this during a dialogue with students at the Malaysia Hall.

"If we do not have this balance, there will be problems. If the students learn things which will not help in the development of the country, then the future of our country will be jeopardised."

He said Umno was now in a dilemma as it had to ensure that students gained the knowledge that they required and at the same time not be adversely influenced by the opposition parties. He noted that the students who usually received government scholarships to study abroad were the ones who were more active in opposing the Government.

"The opposition parties teach us never to say thank you or be grateful. They'll tell you not to say thank you to the people who help you.

"We build mosques but they bring people to give sermons and abuse the people who built the mosques."

Earlier, during a dialogue with members of the Umno Club in the United Kingdom and Eire, Dr Mahathir also said Malaysia would be able to re-emerge as a tiger economy and become a developed country by the year 2020 as long as her people were willing to work hard and make sacrifices during these hard times.

Later, the Prime Minister visited the Frazer-Nash factory in Surrey which is involved in a joint-venture with Tenaga Nasional Bhd to produce electric cars and motorcycles under Perusahaan Otomobil Elektrik Malaysia. The company was also involved in the manufacture of the Azan clock which is able to display the Muslim prayer times in 1,777 cities around the world.

It is now working on a pocket-sized Quran in the form of an organiser, with English translations.

Dr Mahathir, is on a visit to London on the way to attend the Group of 15 meeting in Jamaica.

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