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Mahathir-Teachers

TEACH STUDENTS TO BE RESPONSIBLE, PM TELLS LECTURERS

KANGAR, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said sustaining nation-building efforts and preserving independence require lecturers and teachers to inculcate sense of responsibility to self, race and country among their students.

Opening the Kangar Teachers' Training College here today, Dr Mahathir said it was also incumbent on lecturers and teachers to impart as much knowledge as possible to their students.

Academic staffers should not selfishly care only about the benefits that are in store for them but should be more concerned about imparting knowledge that could improve the lot of the current and the next generation, Dr Mahathir said.

Also present were Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and state executive councillors.

"Lecturers and teachers should guide students in mastering key knowledge as part of building students' competitive edge and resilience in defending national sovereignty," Dr Mahathir said.

By continuously implementing this approach, lecturers and teachers could contribute much to ensuring greater progress for the country, he said.

"Students amply equipped with knowledge will also acquire the sense of gratitude towards the generation before them...and they in turn will repay the kind deed by imparting their knowledge to the coming generation," the prime minister said.

Earlier, in his speech Najib emphasised the importance of knowledge moving in tandem with culture, without which the national slogan "Malaysia Boleh" (Malaysia can do it) could not be translated into accomplishments.

He said education nurtured the culture of gratefulness of students unto parents unto teachers and unto country.

"As such, we must do good deeds, remember good deeds and repay others for their good deeds," he said.

The college inaugurated by the prime minister today is among the most modern of the country's 27 teachers' training colleges.

Built on a 89-ha site in April 1996 and completed in June this year at a cost of RM56 million, the facility could accommodate 1,200 trainee teachers.

-- BERNAMA

MAN RYN