

Dr Mahathir: Teach youths values

Nst - 5 AUG 2000

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight besides knowledge and skills, the young must also be inculcated with good ethics and values for the nation to prosper.

The Prime Minister said if this aspect was ignored, it could lead to a creation of a society devoid of any sense of gratefulness.

If the people had knowledge but no values, he said they might use the knowledge to the detriment of society.

"While it is necessary to provide our children with knowledge, especially in information technology, we must also remember the importance of values and ethics."

He was speaking at the Sultan Abdul Hamid Old Collegians Association (Sahoca) foundation dinner at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel.

Dr Mahathir said the financial crisis provided one good example of how knowledge could be misused to harm society.

"We have people who are clever in using computers... at the push of a button currencies were traded and they made billions of dollars out of this. But in the process, nations were impoverished by their action."

Dr Mahathir, who is also Sahoca president, said a society where there was no link between the providers and receivers of deeds would remain backward.

"Thus, we must remind our students that when they leave school, they have a duty to perform for the society and help build a more prosperous nation."

Dr Mahathir said the country was once poor and the people were very grateful for the things provided.

"But students nowadays, before they even graduated, think that the world owes them and the world must provide for them. They are

not grateful for whatever that has been done," he said.

Later, the Prime Minister received donations totalling RM1.1 million for the Sahoca education fund.

Among the donors were Sapura Holdings, Arab-Malaysian Banking Group, Country Heights, Mitsubishi Corporation, Resort World Berhad, Public Bank Berhad, Southern Bank Berhad and YTL

Corporation Bhd.

Apart from providing scholarships and education loans, the fund will also be utilised for the development and maintenance of the smart school project.

The project is jointly undertaken by the alumni and Multimedia Development Corporation, which has agreed to adopt Sultan Abdul Hamid College as one of its smart schools.