

JUN 5 8 2000

PM: Good ethics, values important

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri: While it is necessary for the government to provide education for the people, it is important for the people to remember that knowledge must go along with good ethics and values, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said no matter how clever a person may be, if there are no good values, their skills can be misused.

"While the government spends a lot of money to build smart schools, provide computers and teachers, it is important to spend time instilling the right kind of values," he said at the Sultan Abdul Hamid Old Collegians Association (SAHOCA) foundation dinner here tonight.

Many students who finish school or university today 'are ungrateful for what has been given to them such as scholarships and other facilities," he said. "This lack of ungratefulness, I'm sorry to

say, is going to destroy our society and we will be backward."

He added Malaysia is fortunate compared with other countries which achieved independence at the same time.

"We have actually enriched our people by providing them with opportunities, better income and better standard of living," he said. "But there is complacency that all this will continue without any effort."

Therefore, he said, more time should be spent to remind students, who will be future leaders, that it is important to have good values.

Mahathir later received cheques for a total of about RM1.1 million from the private sector for the foundation.

He was also presented with a watercolour painting depicting his vision for the country by a Form Three student of the college, Mohd Ezam bin Mohd Nor.