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Mahathir-IT

DR MAHATHIR CALLS ON CORPORATE SECTOR TO HELP UPGRADE IT LITERACY

JITRA, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on more corporate citizens to build centres for computer education in the rural areas.

The prime minister said the government hoped for cooperation from the corporate sector to build such centres in its efforts to upgrade computer literacy among the young generation in the rural areas.

He said there was now a big digital divide between the urban and the rural folk.

"I call on the corporate sector to support the government's efforts to upgrade knowledge in information technology. We want to see more computer education centres built, especially in the rural areas," he said when opening the community centre of the Kubang pasu parliamentary constituency, here.

The centre was set up as a cyber centre to provide guidance to the young generation on the use of computers, counselling and education.

Dr Mahathir's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, who was also present, is the advisor of the centre housed in the former building of the Jitra market.

The prime minister said he hoped that in future more such centres could be built in Kubang Pasu.

He said that as more Malaysians mastered information technology (IT), the society would gain more knowledge.

"I'm convinced that when our society has achieved a high level of command in the field of information technology, we can develop our country (in that field) to be on par with the other countries," he said.

He also hoped that the facilities at the centre would not be abused.

"There are people who use the information technology facilities through the Internet and e-mail to post poison-pen letters and for other wrongful activities.

"I urge the users of information technology to realise that abuse of the information technology tools is a dirty act," he said.

He also called on the young to master IT saying that it gave humans many benefits.

"We get many benefits from the development of technology. With the Internet, we can get information from one world quickly, unlike previously which required a lot of time and work," he said.

Dr Siti Hasmah said the community centre began with the idea to set up a cyber centre.

The centre, set up with cooperation from several private companies and Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), charges a membership fee of RM5.

It has 40 computers contributed by several private companies and offers courses in computer usage and software, library service and education and career guidance.

Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Shafie Mohamed Saleh.

-- BERNAMA

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