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Mahathir-Education

GOVT AIMS TO PROVIDE WIDEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION

KUCHING, July 16 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister tonight criticised groups which claimed that private institutions of higher learning in the country only served the interests of certain groups.

The Government encouraged the setting up of such institutions to provide the widest opportunities to all the people irrespective of their race and economic status to pursue higher education, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Groups which were against the move were only trying to restrict people who were thirsting for knowledge from achieving their aspirations and improving their status in life, he said at the Sarawak Youth Assembly at Stadium Perpaduan in Petrajaya here.

Dr Mahathir urged these groups to check their bad intentions as their actions were not fair to those who wished to pursue higher education.

"Education facilities in this country are for all and use them to the fullest. Those who were not interested in learning should not restrict others who wished to learn," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister reminded youth that without sound knowledge and a high degree of efficiency they would find it hard to administer and further develop this country in the future.

"The future will hold even greater challenges than the present and without knowledge it will be difficult to realise vision 2020," he said.

Hence realising the need to develop the country's youth, the government had set up various institutions of higher learning, vocational institutes and other such facilities.

Dr Mahathir urged the various communities in this country to foster closer understanding among themselves particularly at the children's level and also ensure that organisations had members from all races.

The Government would not accept the concept of one race oppressing another or persecuting or killing members of another race and anyone guilty of these offences would be punished according to the laws of this country.

"Anyone breaching the law will be punished commensurate with the crime he had committed. The law will not favour anyone or side with anyone," he said when referring to the Al-Ma'unah group which tortured and killed two non-Muslim members of the security forces in Sauk, Perak, recently.

The Prime Minister said it was the responsibility of youth to ensure that the country was administered within the framework of the law and the Constitution.

By upholding the law they would ensure that the country continued to develop, he said.

Among the dignitaries present at the function were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and Puan Sri Datin Laila Taib.

Some 8,000 youths representing various organisations and institutions of higher learning took part in the assembly.

--BERNAMA

APG RDY AAM