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Mahathir-Information

MALAYSIA CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH CHALLENGES OF GLOBALISATION, SAYS PM

SERDANG, June 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Malaysia will be able to deal with challenges of globalisation, E-Commerce and K-Economy if many people in the country can acquire efficiency in information technology (IT).

At the same time, he said, the country could also deal with whatever challenges brought about through the ease of communication and dissemination of information through the telephone, computer, Internet and others.

The people need to acquire knowledge, in terms of hardware, software and information application, he said when opening Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten), here.

He said that the notion that certain races could only acquire certain knowledge was not correct.

"Anybody can acquire whatever knowledge if he makes painstaking effort to learn," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that most people were better at using equipment invented and produced by others.

"We all know how to drive, for instance. Not all of us need to know how cars are made. But capability to make cars is something essential for efficiency in the field of engineering and as such, some of us need to have this capability," he said.

According to Dr Mahathir, the same applies to IT where it was essential for some of them to invent and produce hardware and software in information technology.

"For most of us, efficiency required is ability to access and apply information in the equipment supplying the information," he said.

The prime minister also advised students to acquire knowledge in fields in which they have little interest.

"There may be many students who feel that they cannot possibly acquire knowledge in fields in which they have no interest. But this is not true," he said.

He said that during the time when there was not much progress in science and technology, the interest of students was mainly the arts so much so that those with an arts degree were qualified for any profession, from becoming an administrator to the chief of the armed forces.

But with the introduction of specialisation and more specific knowledge for certain functions, those who believed that arts was their only interest, when selecting new fields more appropriate to the tasks they were embarking on, found that they had the ability to acquire them.

He said they found that they were most capable and won prizes for their degree and they could also carry out their duties efficiently and effectively.

-- BERNAMA

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