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`Emphasise religious and moral education'

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said emphasis must be given to religious and moral education at school and university levels as they ensure students are instilled with values.

He said although religious and moral subjects had been introduced in schools and universities, they had not shown the desired results.

"We stress more on acquiring knowledge, not on moral values, or the emphasis has not been effective," he said after presenting the MS ISO 9001 quality assurance certificate to Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang.

"It is of no use to have knowledge without morals. Similarly, it is also of no use to have morals without knowledge," he said.

While those with high morals but lacking in knowledge would not be able to contribute much, those with skills but using them to commit crime were also undesirable.

The Prime Minister was asked to elaborate on his speech earlier where he stressed on the importance of producing knowledgeable and quality graduates, those who realised their responsibilities to society and nation.

Dr Mahathir praised the faculty for its achievement in being awarded the certificate, which was the first for local university faculty.

"I am sure this will encourage other faculties in UPM and other universities to strive for better performance," he said, adding that this augured well for the country as it marched towards achieving developed nation status.

Dr Mahathir felt achievements like this would enhance the standard and quality of universities in Malaysia, which was in line with the Government's policy of making the country a centre of educational excellence.

"Now, we have many foreign students who come here not only because of the low cost but also due to the high quality of education."

He said there were no reasons for students to pursue their education in the West as similar programmes were available here.

Dr Mahathir said suggestions had been conveyed at the Asem meeting for more European students to study in this part of the world, not only to obtain degrees but to know the people and culture better.

For the country to progress, the Prime Minister also said that it was imperative for Malaysians to master all fields.

"If we were to concentrate on certain fields only, we have to depend on outsiders to develop the country. Then it will be difficult to attain our vision."

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