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Mahathir-Students

MORAL VALUE EQUALLY IMPORTANT AS QUALITY EDUCATION- DR M

SERDANG, Selangor, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister said today moral values among graduates are equally important as a quality education to make Malaysia a developed nation.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he wished to remind university students that it was useless for them to acquire quality education if they misused their knowledge to bring the whole country and society into disrepute.

After 43 years of rapid development and having emerged as the most developed of developing countries, Malaysia was preparing to take off and reach developed status by 2020.

"As to whether we can take off or not depends on quality not only the quality of knowledge but also that of personality. There is a need to develop moral values appropriate to society and the country," he said when presenting the MS ISO 9001 certification to the Veterinary Medicine Faculty of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) here.

He said it was the students who shouldered the responsibility to continue with this development and inherit the nation and hence they had to enhance their capabilities along with the country's progress.

Malaysia needed a population which was highly educated in all fields for without mastery in the various fields it would be difficult for it to continue with its progress.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia needed students who mastered technical subjects such as engineering and information technology and hoped people understood the current needs.

"But I fear over the choice the students and their parents will make. Probably they will opt for useless fields not relevant at all to national development and in view of this the country will not have many highly capable children."

The Prime Minister said there was no reason why Malaysia could not achieve developed status if the people were willing to work hard and be prepared to improve quality in all aspects.

He hoped the conferment of the MS ISO 9001 certification to the UPM faculty would motivate other faculties and universities in this country to make Malaysia a centre of education excellence in the world.

He said the Veterinary Faculty's achievement could probably be a first in this region and he expressed the hope that the UPM would become the first university in the country to earn the certification.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had several renowned public and private universities and it was the government's aspiration that students from overseas would come over and study in this country.

"At present many foreign students are studying in Malaysia not only because the cost is low but also due to the quality of education and the system we practise here," he said.

He said that at the ASEM (Asia-Europe) summit in Seoul in October it was proposed that European countries send their students to this region particularly Malaysia so that they could understand Asian culture and strengthen links between the two continents.

Dr Mahathir was confident that Malaysia would become the choice of students from Europe not because they were pressured but because of the quality of education in this country.

Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali was also present at the function.

-- BERNAMA

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