

# Teachers need to adopt new culture: Dr M

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**GENTING HIGHLANDS, Thurs:** Teachers need to accept and adopt new cultures which bring about noble values before they teach it to their students, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

For this, lecturers 'in teachers' training colleges need to be equipped with the knowledge on the role of culture and noble values "in making or breaking a nation", he said.

"The college heads and lecturers in turn should pass this knowledge to the trainee teachers who will go on to inculcate all these in their students."

He said that failure to do so can result in future Malaysians who may be highly qualified academically but lack noble values and have a negative culture.

Citing high ranking officers as an example, he said they can abuse their powers and get involved in corruption without feeling guilty or shame.

Mahathir, who attended the National Education Convention 2001 and dialogue session with education

officers here, said the teaching of noble values is especially essential in the era of Information Technology.

Students now are exposed to the Internet, which has websites that carry pornography, incite them against the government and spread deviationist teachings, including on Islam.

"By having more teachings on noble values, it can help the students assess the right and wrong by themselves," he said.

Mahathir also said the culture among Malays and Chinese is very different, where the Chinese community places great emphasis on the need to acquire knowledge.

Due to this culture, Chinese and even Malay parents choose to send their children to Chinese schools instead of national schools, he said.

On Muslim parents opting to send their children to religious schools because the subject of Islam is taught better there compared with national schools, he said the government does not have a problem with this.