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Mahathir-Grateful

BE GRATEFUL TO SOCIETY, DR M ADVISES STUDENTS

PUTRAJAYA, April 4 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded students that they should always remember to be grateful to the society that had provided them comfortable facilities to study and to succeed in life.

The Prime Minister said students who pursued higher studies at tertiary learning institutions either locally or abroad must remember that their success was made possible by the people.

Every member of the society had cooperated to create and maintain peace which enabled the country to progress and to provide facilities and opportunities for them to study, he said.

"Because of that, we should always remember to be grateful to the society," he said when addressing high achievers in last year's Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination who were entertained to lunch by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Dr Mahathir was the guest of honour at the luncheon held at the new federal government administrative centre here which was attended by ministers and deputy ministers.

Dr Mahathir said students who remembered the society's contributions would strive to give their best to enable the future generation to enjoy the facilities and opportunities that would propel them to succeed in their careers.

"If we're highly educated and brainy students but if we are selfish, it will be a loss to the society and eventually to us also," he said.

He said tertiary education must be coupled with a strong personality, noble qualities, know to appreciate and value good deeds, be humble and realise that "we owe a lot to the society."

"We must feel responsible to the society, we must remember that what we receive from the society must be returned to the society, we must realise that we live in a society of many people.

"The ties between us and friends, the society, university and lecturers.... our relations with the government must also be good as we live within this context," he said.

Dr Mahathir said however smart a person could be, he cannot afford to live in isolation without the society.

Well aware that the students obtained all AIs in nine to 13 subjects in the SPM, he said they might one day go for further studies overseas and urged them to remember that they were Malaysians.

He believed that all of them have the patriotism to always remind themselves that they were Malaysians and would one day return to their homes to Malaysia to serve this country.

The reminder came from Dr Mahathir as he believed that best Malaysian students would receive offers of much better pay to work with organisations in developed countries at the same time when Malaysia would also be needing them.

"God Willing, here too if we work hard, we can be as developed as the most developed country," he said, stressing that the potentials for further growth and development in Malaysia was much better with peace and stability.

Dr Mahathir also said it was a good sign for the future of the country with more than 2,000 students scoring all AIs in SPM, especially in efforts to create a knowledgeable workforce in various fields particularly hi-tech

sectors.

Earlier, in his speech, Abdullah hoped the students could maintain their excellent academic performance in future and would contribute their services to the country.

"When the time comes, it is hoped that they will play a significant role in the country with the knowledge they have acquired to place Malaysia on par with any developed country," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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