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Don't be influenced by others, PM urges students

SEREMBAN, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded students not to allow their minds to be "disturbed" by unscrupulous quarters out to create chaos and instability in the country.

He said their studies would suffer if they allowed themselves to be influenced by these people.

"There are actually just a small number of students who do not appreciate what the Government has done for them although we have spent billions of ringgit to ensure they could get a proper education.

"If they are not interested (in their studies), that's their own problem.

"But these students go around and disturb the minds of other students until the latter also can no longer concentrate on their studies."

He said if the environment was not conducive, then students would not be able to learn.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a dinner before launching the Kolej Tunku Kurshiah's students' welfare fund at a hotel here.

Also present were his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad, who is also the college's patron, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim, Director-General of Education Datuk Abdul Rafie Mahat, State Exco members and other dignitaries.

The fund got off to a great start with RM444,000 collected from several corporate organisations tonight.

The college has targeted to raise RM1 million.

Kolej Komuniti and Projek Lebuhraya Utara-Selatan (Plus) donated RM100,000 while MRCB and Yayasan Arab-Malaysian donated RM50,000 each.

Southern Bank and TA Securities donated 20,000, Star Publications (RM18,000), Penang Shipbuilding Berhad, Public Bank Berhad and Celcom (RM10,000 each).

Bank Rakyat gave RM30,000, Hong Leong Bank (RM6,000), Telekom Malaysia, Yayasan Negeri Melaka, Design Practise Consultant and Tan Chong Motors (RM5,000 each).

The Prime Minister also said some quarters claimed that worldly achievements were not counted for and not important in the hereafter.

"Actually, they are wrong... we must be successful in our life in order that we be successful in the hereafter."

He said the Government would continue to spend a substantial sum of money on education as it understands the importance of education for the progress and stability of the country.

"The present generation also realises the significance of education, but there are some young people who just fail to understand the importance of broadening their knowledge.

"We can have all the physical infrastructures, kindergartens, schools, universities with adequate and sophisticated equipment and so on, but if we do not want to study, then all these will be meaningless," the Prime Minister said.

To bring the country to greater heights, he said Malaysians must be able to compete with each other. "However, if there is a race (in this country) that is too successful or too backward, this can only cause society to disintegrate."

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