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Razali: Grads have duty to promote unity

PENANG, Sun. - University students and graduates have a duty to safeguard national unity, harmony and prosperity, Universiti Sains Malaysia's pro-chancellor Tan Sri Razali Ismail said today.

Razali, who is also Special Advisor to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said the students and graduates had an obligation to repay society.

"They should never forget that the country and people have provided them with a top class education system including facilities and infrastructure.

"They have a responsibility to repay this gratitude by protecting the country from all harm," he said when addressing 892 graduates who received their scrolls during the final sitting of USM's 30th convocation at the university's main campus in Minden.

A total of 6,184 USM graduates received their scrolls this year.

Razali said the students and graduates should realise that no one would gain if the country was in chaos.

"As such, they should not get involved in activities like demonstrations and social-ills which can damage the country.

"Unlike several other countries, we have not become subservient to global financial powers, and the students and graduates have a duty to maintain this," the former United Nations General Assembly president said.

He also reminded students to continuously enrich their knowledge and skills.

"Globalisation has opened up educational opportunities via the information highway for all.

"If we fail to seize the opportunities available, we will fall far behind others in all aspects," he said.

While it was not wrong for students and graduates to have their own ideologies and perception of things, Razali said their actions should be practical.

"Our actions today will have repercussions on the future."

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