

Self-criticism key to success, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri: Self-criticism is crucial to ensure one's success, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Mahathir said people usually do not like to hear about their own weaknesses, but unless rectified, one can never achieve success.

"If we don't identify our weaknesses, we can never rectify it and replace it with strength.

"There are many successful races in the world and some almost have no hope at all. We can choose which example we want to follow," he said in his speech at the launch of the Youth Chamber of the

Malay Chamber of Commerce Malaysia here today.

Mahathir said some people, races and countries are more successful than others and if one scrutinise the reason, one will see that it is due to the different values in life.

He said if one's value and culture are not conducive to the success that is sought, one will never achieve success.

"If we are not successful, we must ask ourselves whether the value and culture we are holding on to is the reason.

"After we have identified the limitations, we must change and replace these values and culture

with those which can contribute towards our success," he said.

Mahathir also asked the people, particularly the bumiputra, to seize the opportunity provided by the government to gain knowledge.

Mahathir said in Malaysia, priority is given to bumiputra and various limitations are placed on non-bumiputras.

"Still, the non-bumiputras are more successful. We should look into ourselves. We have to be sincere in self-criticism," he said.

On the Youth Chamber, Mahathir said it should be an avenue for its members

to gather and discuss about their own weaknesses.

Later at a press conference, Mahathir reminded the Malays not to be selfish and cause the whole community to suffer.

Commenting on the report that 61,000 student borrowers failed to repay Public Services Department's loans, the prime minister said one will never be successful with such attitude.

"If you don't pay back, the next time you want to borrow, you will not be successful. The whole community suffers because you misbehave," he said.