

23 AUG 2002

Mahathir-Students

STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW HOW TO VALUE INDEPENDENCE

JOHOR BA HARU, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, has said that students who will inherit the country's leadership and ensure the nation's progress and civilisation should be able to value and preserve the country's independence.

They should be prepared to shoulder the responsibility of upholding the country's independence, he said.

"Students should prove their undivided loyalty to their country," he said in his message to the souvenir programme issued on the occasion of the Secondary School Student Leaders Patriotic Assembly which is underway here.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to close the assembly being attended by 1,040 student leaders from across the country at Stadium Perbadanan Pasir Gudang near here tomorrow.

Stressing that students were very important assets to the country, he said as future leaders, young people should pursue knowledge as their main responsibility and objective.

Dr Mahathir said only with knowledge and efficiency could Malaysia emerge as a united and successful nation, one that would have to be reckoned with.

Students should be sensitive to the situation around them, the Prime Minister said.

All these elements were important in moulding their character and building up their capacity to handle challenges and realise Vision 2020.

Hence students should make good use of their time in school to learn and increase their knowledge and leadership skills, he added.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman in his message said the young generation had the responsibility to continue the struggle and defend the nation's independence.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said patriotism was the spirit or willingness to defend the sovereignty and honour of the country as well as its policies and leadership.

"This programme is to instil the spirit of love for the country and the willingness to cherish its freedom and independence and strengthen the links among student leaders," he said.

Musa said the Schools Division of the ministry organised the gathering as part of the Merdeka Month celebrations.

-- BERNAMA

MNY MNY AAM