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Malaysians need to be creative to progress in IT age, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Malaysians need to be creative and come up with new ideas to move into the next level of the communication and information age, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We need more Malaysians to believe that they too can be creative. There is a need for us to believe in ourselves, to believe we can do things that others can do, sometimes we can do things better than others can do.

"Once we have the belief that we are in no way inferior, that within us there is that capacity to come up with new ideas, then those ideas will actually surface," he said.

He said this in his speech to launch a book entitled Wings of Creativity, the first-ever publication that captures creative images of Malaysia's progress published by the Limkokwing Integrated Group.

"We are moving from the industrial age into the communication and information age and this requires new thinking, innovative thinking, new applications that involve more and more information and more knowledge.

"It is therefore important for us to realise that we need to think differently now to use new skills and new technology," he said.

Dr Mahathir said at one time people thought that photographs did not lie but it is now possible to alter photographs. As such technology is open to abuse, a lot of lies are being spread about Malaysia and certain personalities on the Internet.

"Nothing is dangerous unless it is in the hands of people who are dangerous," he said.

He said morals and ethics should also be taught along with the teaching of creativity as knowledge acquired can be open to abuse.

"We hope that as our students are taught new knowledge and skills, we also teach them what is good and what is bad," he said.

"Putting across ideas and communicating is a very important skill that is required of everybody. If we cannot do that then we are obviously going to be misunderstood," he said, adding that sometimes people can then become antagonistic as what has been said with the best of intentions can go across very poorly.

Also present were Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, Human Resources Minister Datuk Fong Chan Onn, National Economic Action Council (NEAC) executive director Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, Limkokwing Integrated Group president Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing, Limkokwing Institute of Creative Technology (LICT) governing council chairman Tan Sri Awang Had Salleh and LICT adviser Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie.

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