

07 SEP 2003

Mahathir-Knowledge

ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE EXCELLENCE, DR MAHATHIR TELLS STUDENTS

JITRA, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today asked Malaysians, especially students, to constantly strive to acquire excellence in knowledge so that they will not be exploited, humiliated and sidelined in the challenging globalisation era.

The Prime Minister said the government gave attention to knowledge development and spent more than RM10 billion from the country's expenditures every year for the field.

The knowledge infrastructures in the country were the best and had won praise from foreign leaders, he said when speaking at a "Leader-With-The-People" gathering at Sekolah Kebangsaan Tunjang, near here.

He said students should take advantage of the infrastructures to enrich their knowledge power.

Dr Mahathir said he was sad that some students did not utilise the facilities provided by the government but instead wasted their time at shopping complexes, with the majority of them Malays.

Dr Mahathir also urged Malaysians to master Information Technology (IT) because through it, they could become knowledgeable people.

He said there were many innovations taking place in the technological field as the people engaged in the field have the expertise on IT.

"We can also do it. But before our people do it, they must learn first. There's also knowledge in Science and Mathematics.

Dr Mahathir urged students to master English because many of the knowledge were written in that language.

Although there were Malay books on certain knowledge, many of them were translated from English books.

He said mastering English did not mean that the government was ignoring Bahasa Melayu because the national language was still being used but English is still the language of knowledge.

Dr Mahathir also recounted his student days when he had to acquire knowledge to become clever to the extent of becoming the country's prime minister.

"Before, my father and mother never allow me to go out of the house compound. I've to stay in the house and read books. When my father returns from office and coughs, everybody will run to read the books.

"Because my father was a fierce man, I studied seriously. I'm fortunate to receive education. If I'm not educated, how to become a prime minister," he said.

At the function, Dr Mahathir presented contributions to about 20 senior citizens in the Tunjang area.

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, later took a ride on a car invented by five students and seven teachers of Sekolah Menengah Teknik at Jalan Stadium, Alor Setar at the school grounds.

Named "Jerai Gemilang" the car was driven by Adnan Nayan, the teacher who spearheaded the project to produce the 1,000cc car.

Adnan, who started working on the project in April, took about four months to complete the car with a cost of RM20,000.

He said the car would be handed to the Kedah Education Department.

-- BERNAMA

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