

23 AUG 2003

Mahathir-Malays

MALAYS MUST ADOPT NOBLE VALUES

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 23 (Bernama)-- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the Malays must adopt noble values such as patience, sincerity, honesty, diligence, sticking to principles and willingness to face challenges.

The Prime Minister said these noble values could develop the nation and the Malays themselves.

These values must always be instilled among the Malays, he said at the Independent Malays Gathering organised by the Young Malays Secretariat at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), here.

About 1,200 Malays comprising professionals, undergraduates and school students attended the gathering.

"If we are willing to struggle first only then will Allah fulfil our prayers," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Malays must understand that to succeed they must first work hard.

Great patience, strong knowledge and strict discipline were needed in order for the Malays to succeed, he said.

He said that for the Malays to be successful, they must train themselves to seek knowledge, make repeated attempts, and not to despair easily.

"The failure of the New Economic Policy (NEP) among the Malays is because they like to take the easy way out by selling their shares, contracts, APs (Approval Permits) which are given to them," he said.

Bumiputeras only achieved 19 per cent of the 30 per cent targeted for the Malays under the NEP, even then, it was because there were Bumiputera institutions which kept the shares for them.

Dr Mahathir said the Malays must plan and form strategies for success.

"They must know how to make plans and equip themselves with knowledge to act when the time comes," he said.

He praised the Malays who were not power hungry and thus contributed to the country's success.

However, he was still dissatisfied with the achievements of the Malays in meeting their targets.

Although many had succeeded in business and industries, these achievements could still not guarantee their future, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Malays were not trained to control their desires to the extent that many were involved in drug abuse, rapes and incest.

Also present at the function were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and Tenaga Nasional Berhad chairman Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin.

-- BERNAMA

HM HM AO