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Mahathir-Property

PAY MALAYSIA FOR USING ITS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY- DR MAHATHIR

MELAKA, July 25 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today developed countries should pay Malaysia for making use of its experts as these graduates can be considered as this country's intellectual property.

"We have to pay them when we use their intellectual property and so they too should pay us for making use of Malaysian experts who own our intellectual property," the former Prime Minister said.

He was speaking to the press after accepting an honorary doctorate from the Multimedia University (MMU) at its fifth convocation at Seri Negeri Ayer Keroh here. It was presented by MMU Chancellor Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali.

The doctorate was conferred in recognition of Dr Mahathir's immense contributions to the development of information, communication technology in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on the appeal by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi that Malaysian graduates working overseas return to their country and together develop the nation.

Dr Mahathir said the government had spent much money to provide them with education in developed countries but when they graduated they stayed on overseas and the developed countries benefited from their talents without much expense to themselves.

Dr Mahathir said they should return to their country which was facing a shortage of expertise.

"Usually these Malaysian students returned home after completing their studies but some others stayed on because of the high remuneration and better employment opportunities over there," he said.

To encourage them to return the government should create a working environment and provide remuneration on par with that they were getting in the developed countries.

"However the cost of living in Malaysia is lower and so even with half of what they are getting overseas they should be comfortable here and enjoy the same life as in overseas," he added.

Dr Mahathir also commended the government for continuing with the effort to provide more Malaysians with ICT knowledge.

"When compared with developed countries we may be behind but among developing countries we are ahead and so acquiring this ICT knowledge is something good," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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