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Mahathir-Education

YOUNGER GENERATION HAS DUTY TO SUSTAIN COUNTRY'S PROGRESS

PENANG, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the younger generation has a duty to sustain the country's progress by exploring new knowledge and intensifying research.

The former prime minister said the country had provided them with many facilities to enable them to continue in their search for excellence in education.

The government had in fact allocated for education 25 per cent of the country's budget, the biggest ever given by any country for education, he said at the Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra 2004 series of public lectures, organised by Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang Free School Foundation and Socio-Economic and Environment Research Institute (SERI), here today.

"They cannot escape from this duty because the country will not achieve progress without educational excellence," he said.

After presenting the lecture entitled "Education and Excellence -- Challenges of the 21st Century", Dr Mahathir held a dialogue session with students from the Penang Free School.

Fielding a question, he said that in line with the development of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), teachers could develop educational software for certain subjects to be used in schools or even at home.

"Teachers could also learn together with the students to ensure educational excellence," he said.

To another question, he said students should not view examination as a burden because there was no other system as yet that could effectively evaluate a student's performance like examination.

"We don't know whether someone is clever or otherwise by simply looking at him," said Dr Mahathir who received an honorary doctorate in science from USM at its 33rd convocation here today.

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