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Mahathir-Corruption

DR MAHATHIR CONCERNED ABOUT CORRUPTION AMONG EDUCATED LOT

BANDAR SERI ISKANDAR, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed concern about corruption and power abuse among the highly educated and those occupying senior positions in the government and private sectors.

He said the problem arose because the educated groups did not believe in noble values.

"Education by itself is dangerous, those who are educated but lack good values will abuse their power and knowledge. The effects (of their wrongdoings) will be worse than those (committed by) the uneducated lot," he said in his speech at the fifth convocation of Universiti Teknologi Petronas, here today.

Dr Mahathir, who is the UTP Chancellor, said that it was not that the noble values were not inculcated because it had started right from the home, school and university. There certainly were efforts at instilling such values.

He said corrupt practices occurred because many did not consider it as a crime.

"There are some who say what's wrong with taking a little. The problem is when it becomes a culture, the little (bribe) becomes bigger.

"We will be pressured with the needs that should not have existed in the first place, to the extent that one even has to pay for a graveyard...this happens in other countries," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there were countries where corruption had become a culture and when this happened, it would not be possible for that particular country to progress even though many of its nationals were educated.

"All expenditure will go up because one has to offer bribes at all levels. The poor citizens will suffer, the people will continue to be poor and become a burden," he said.

He said the press frequently reported about incidences of negligence, power abuse and poor administration by those who were educated.

The former prime minister advised the graduands who would become the country's future leaders not to be hasty in acquiring wealth to the extent that they did not care how they achieved it.

Dr Mahathir said the graduands should control their desires, uphold strict discipline and refrain from corrupt practices because if the leaders themselves were corrupt, the followers would also emulate them.

He said that so far corruption was not that widespread in Malaysia as the poor still had the opportunity to attend school and the university and obtained senior positions as there was no pressure from corruption.

Earlier, he gave away degrees to 542 graduands who graduated in chemical, civil, electrical, electronics and mechanical engineering, information and communications technology as well as business information system in addition to 21 graduands who obtained their masters degree.

-- BERNAMA

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