

'Youth need pure and good values'

• **By M. Husairy Othman**

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TRONOH, Sun. — There is an urgent need to instil "pure and good" values in the younger generation so that abuse of power and corruption can be eradicated, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (picture) said today.

Dr Mahathir said knowledge without values was dangerous, as those who possessed it might be tempted to misuse it for their own gains.

"The repercussions are far more damaging than petty crime carried out by those who are not educated," he said, while calling for university graduates to be responsible citizens and not be blinded by greed.

He gave this advice at the graduation ceremony for 563 students of Universiti Teknologi Petronas in Bandar Seri Iskandar, near here, today.

"Some crimes in the country were committed by highly educated people," Dr Mahathir said, "(including) those who held high posts.



"We read daily in newspapers about abuse of power, mismanagement of funds ... these were all perpetrated by (the educated)."

Dr Mahathir also warned of dire consequences if corruption were accepted by Malaysians as a way of life.

"Now we see that corruption is on the rise as many of us do not see it as a criminal act. Should this become a way of life, we might even have to fork out money in order to obtain a burial plot when we die," he said.

On another matter, Dr Mahathir, who is also UTP chancellor, urged graduates to give something back to their alma mater as proof of their gratitude.

"The former students of several universities abroad contribute millions annually once they are successful in life," he said, asking Malaysians to follow suit.

Present at the function were UTP pro-chancellor Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican and rector Dr Zainal Abidin Kasim.