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DR M: CORRUPTION BECOMING COMMON

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'People ignoring
negative effects
on society'

KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed concern about corrupt practices that are becoming so common among the people that they are willing to ignore the negative impact such actions would have on society and the country.

He described the issue as *memperasuahan*, or inculcating bad habits in the people that it became part of the culture.

"I do not know whether the word *memperasuahan* exists in Malay, but the act of inculcating corrupt

practices is often carried out.

"Those who accept this culture will no longer feel shy or embarrassed in giving or accepting bribes, which is sometimes referred to as *tumbuk rusuk* or *ma-kan suap* (habits associated with corruption)," he said in the latest entry on his blog, chedet.cc.

He said the public considered corruption as bad, but those who were corrupted would practise it discreetly as they realised that it was against the law and religion.

However, he said, when people accepted corruption as a norm, then there would be no sense of shame in doing it.

He said during the reign of "cash is king" or "money is king", the practice of giving and accepting bribes became accepted, especially among Malays.

"They are willing to do anything if they are bribed with enough money or gifts.

"Whether it is a good or bad thing, it is not part of the consideration. The fact that it is against the law and considered a sin are not taken into account.

"The priority is satisfying one's greed."

Dr Mahathir said even though people realised that bribery was prohibited, recipients would not take long to accept it.

"Whether it is good or bad, bribery feeds greed and is believed to be profitable. Its negative effects on society are trivialised.

"Certainly, a sense of national pride and the impact (of the habit) on society and the country are trivialised by corrupt individuals." **Bernama**