

# DR M: INTEGRITY VITAL FOR GOOD LEADERSHIP

**Upholding noble values will mould younger generation into wise leaders, says prime minister**

DAWN CHAN  
SHAH ALAM  
news@nst.com.my

Leadership is not rocket science. Instead, retaining ideals and upholding noble values will mould youth into good leaders said Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Speaking before more than 1,000 student leaders here yesterday, he said everyday values would define and mould them into leaders.

Leadership, said the Langkawi member of parliament, was a life-long task of learning and exper-

ience, and that it impacted the lives of others.

Dr Mahathir said as much as he wanted youth to be competitive and inculcate themselves with capabilities to take on the rest of the world, it was not about dollars and cents, profits and losses or bottom lines.

"Firstly, leaders must have integrity and honesty. Without them, a leader would be corrupt and untrustworthy.

"Next, leaders must be willing to work hard and have pride in their work.

"Apart from that, leaders must have the hunger for knowledge and be aware of the changes around them," said the 94-year-old.

Dr Mahathir said this was especially true when leaders faced technological advancements and the disruptions they cause.

"If leaders are oblivious to these changes, they will not be able to impress upon the nation

## LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad launching the 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium 2019 at Setia City Convention Centre in Shah Alam yesterday. With him are Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik (fourth from left) and Humanitarian Affairs Asia secretary-general Kim Solomon (fourth from right). PIC BY SADDAM YUSOFF

on the need to keep abreast of the latest advancements.

"The nation will lag behind and eventually become backward," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this at the launch of the one-week 10th University Scholars Leadership Symposium 2019 at Setia City Convention Centre here.

Present were Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik, his deputy Teo Nie Ching, and Humanitarian Affairs Asia secretary-general Kim Solomon.

Another value that was probably underrated, Dr Mahathir

said, was humility, as without it, the ego would be what drives a leader.

"Being humble does not make a leader weak. Instead, it binds him with the people, those who supported him and makes him their leader. If a leader loses touch with his people and supporters, he ceases to be a leader.

"Suffice to say, all the values that have been impressed in our religion, culture and customs will keep a leader's feet firmly planted on the ground.

"A leader should lead not just by mere words but more effec-

tively through example. Being a good leader is not only about being intelligent, but one who needs to know and to have the ability to differentiate between right and wrong, good and evil."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was faced with threats of disunity in the past due to setbacks and attempts by bigots and zealots.

"It was aimed at dividing and undermining our unity and common objectives but *Alhamdulillah* (praise be to God), we have prevailed and we are able to stay on course to showcase a nation that is united in its diversity."