

PM: EMBRACE POSITIVE VALUES

People should not forsake them in pursuing progress, says Dr Mahathir

MOHD AZIS NGAH
AND HAIKA KHAZI
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE people have been reminded not to discard positive values, which form part of their core development, in pursuit of progress and development.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said because of the need to keep up with modernisation, Malaysians it seemed were incapable of holding steadfastly to values, customs and cultures.

"We actually allow ourselves to be trapped in the advances in the digital and automation era.

"We don't seem to be able to assimilate the good values when we have to chase modernity just because we don't want to be left behind. In truth, such positive values should not be a barrier while we are chasing modernisation.

"In fact it would ensure that we are successful while holding on to one's humanitarian values, customs and culture.

"The cultural traditions and customs were honed through the ages. Many of our successful people are those who had held on to this practice."

Dr Mahathir said this at the launch of the Heritage and Na-



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali showing the Heritage and National Culture Charter in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With them are Yayasan Budi chairman Tan Sri Dr Rais Yatim (fourth from left) and representatives from local arts non-governmental organisations.

PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

tional Culture Charter at the Islamic Art Museum Malaysia here yesterday.

The programme was organised by Yayasan Albukhary, in collaboration with Yayasan Budi.

Present were Yayasan Budi chairman Tan Sri Dr Rais Yatim and Yayasan Albukhary founder Tan Sri Syed Mokhtar Albukhary.

The charter was established based on the resolutions adopted at the Cultural Congress in 1971 as well as the Culture Congress in 2017.

Dr Mahathir said the government aimed to preserve the people's diverse customs and lifestyles.

As such, he said, ancient civil-

isation, history, the evidence of people's struggle from the past was important to warrant research and evaluation, so that people could learn from yester-years.

"We often hear sayings such as history repeating itself, but we are less aware of the historical implications which are misunderstood and misused.

"As such, this charter is an important effort and should be given full support by all parties."

He said in this time and age, there were many complaints about the current generation who were obsessed with technology and modernisation until their

humanity, customs and culture were sidelined.

He said as a result of this so called modern culture, there existed a generation of people who were abusive, indulged in uncivilised practices which surpassed religious confines.

"We often hear complaints that the present generation is being carried away by modernisation to the detriment of humanitarian values, customs and cultures.

"As a result, some of us don't behave in a civilised manner and step out of the confines of religion.

"I hope this charter will take us yet another step towards achieving a higher cultural standing, in-

cluding the preservation of the Malay culture.

"Hopefully, this charter would also aid in promoting Bahasa Malaysia as the national language".

Dr Mahathir called for historical research, specifically in archaeology, to be expanded.

At the same, he urged the private sector to play a bigger role in supporting local tertiary educational institutions in the field of archaeology.

"We already have the National Heritage Act 2005 and have been conducting archaeological research at Universiti Sains Malaysia. Additional activities must be undertaken," he said.