

NO31: (F)
MAHATHIR

76 (P)
Kuantan, Aug. 22 (BERNAMA) -- Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohammed today stressed the need to fully understand Asia's economic and social situation in planning for youth development in the region.

A clear appreciation of Asia's problems and needs, hopes and aspirations, strength and weakness could help tailor youths development programme according to the region's needs and capacity.

He opened the second general assembly of the Asian Youths Council at the state operations room here.

Dr. Mahathir reminded Asian youths leaders to be realistic and avoid clashes between ideals and reality.

He commended youth leaderships in Malaysia for being able to match ideals with good common sense and thus contribute to the development of the country.

He pointed out that youths organisations had important roles to mobilise and organise youths constructively, especially in dealing with migration of rural youths to urban areas.

He called for a deliberate adjustment between values in the rural areas and values in the city to minimise such conflicts. --
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DR. MAHATHIR ALSO CAUTIONED YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AGAINST BEING MANIPULATED BY CERTAIN GROUPS FOR THEIR OWN ENDS. 205

HE SAID SOME BODIES HAD TRIED TO MANIPULATE CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS.

DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTHS AND SPORTS WOULD LOOK FOR A SITE FOR THE ASIAN YOUTH COUNCIL SECTARIAT AND CONSIDER THE SETTING UP OF ITS REGIONAL INFORMATION CENTRE IN MALAYSIA. -- BERNAMA 1402/A1