

U E487 DEE  
MAHATHIR-NEIGHBOUR  
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KUALA LUMPUR, JAN 4 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON TOWN DWELLERS TO SET UP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS AMONG THEM AND PROMOTE THE SPIRIT OF GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS.

MEMBERSHIP IN SUCH ASSOCIATIONS WOULD AMONG OTHER THINGS HELP CREATE A MORE PLEASANT LIVING ATMOSPHERE AND INSTIL A SENSE OF LOYALTY TO FRIENDS AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER FELT THAT IN THE MODERN ERA MOST PEOPLE DID NOT PAY MUCH HEED TO THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD BECAUSE THEY WERE ENGROSSED IN THEIR OWN TASKS.

THIS ATTITUDE WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT OR AN EMERGENCY AS THOSE CONCERNED WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO GET HELP FROM NEIGHBOURS, HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE JALAN SETIAKASIH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (PERKASIH) IN BUKIT DAMANSARA HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE THE RESIDENTS DID NOT KNOW EACH OTHER. -- MORE  
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IN THE LIGHT OF THIS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE WAS PROPOSING THE SETTING UP OF RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO WORK TOGETHER AND UNDERTAKE COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

THE HAVING OF SUCH ASSOCIATIONS WOULD ALSO MOTIVATE CHILDREN IN A PARTICULAR NEIGHBOURHOOD TO MIX AROUND AND GROW UP TO LOVE THEIR SURROUNDINGS AND THE NATION, HE SAID.

THIS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREATION OF A STRONG NATION AND HELP PROTECT IT FROM ADVERSITIES AS WELL AS HELP TO CURB CRIME, HE SAID.

HE HOPED THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE RESIDENTS OF BUKIT DAMANSARA WOULD SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS RESIDING ELSEWHERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO TOOK PART IN SEVERAL SPORTS EVENTS ORGANISED BY PERKASIH. -- MORE  
1516MST 04 01 87

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IN THE TUG-OF-WAR COMPETITION, THE PRIME MINISTER'S TEAM BEAT THE ONE LED BY CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT TAN SRI SALLEHUDDIN MOHAMED, WHO IS ALSO PERKASIH PRESIDENT.

IN THE THREADING-THE-NEEDLE COMPETITION, THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS WIFE EMERGED WINNERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE AWAY PRIZES TO WINNERS OF THE +JOGALONG+ ORGANISED THIS MORNING TO MARK THE LAUNCHING OF PERKASIH.

EARLIER, TAN SRI SALLEHUDDIN IN HIS SPEECH SAID THE ASSOCIATION HAD BEEN FORMED TO HELP SOLVE COMMON PROBLEMS OF THE RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.

THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION, THE RESIDENTS COULD ALSO ORGANISE VARIOUS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES, HE SAID. -- MORE  
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HE SAID THE SETTING UP OF THE ASSOCIATION WOULD ENABLE THE RESIDENTS TO MAKE MORE BENEFICIAL USE OF THEIR SPARE TIME.

TAN SRI SALLEHUDDIN SAID THE AREA AT PRESENT HAD 2,000 RESIDENTS AND 90 OF THEM WERE EITHER SERVING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OR WERE EX-CIVIL SERVANTS.

HE HOPED MORE RESIDENTS WOULD JOIN THE ASSOCIATION. -- BERNAMA  
1532MST 04 01 87