

U E915 AAE
 MAHATHIR-CIVIC
 BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 4⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD STRESSED TODAY THE NEED TO PROMOTE CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG THE PEOPLE TO CREATE A COMMUNITY THAT IS DISCIPLINED AND HAPPY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ALL QUARTERS SHOULD GIVE THEIR SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THIS TO ENSURE THE INTEGRITY AND WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE AND NATION.

THERE WAS ALSO THE NEED FOR EFFORTS TO MAKE CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS PART OF THE PERSONALITY OF MALAYSIAN CITIZENS, HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING NATIONAL CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS DAY, WHICH HAS THE THEME +CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS BEGINS AT HOME+, AT ANGKASAPURI HERE.

BESIDES THE CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS DAY, OTHER STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO PROMOTE THE CONCEPT, HE SAID, ADDING THAT TO DO SO +WE NEED TO EXPLAIN WHY IT IS GOOD FOR US OURSELVES.+

HE SAID THE THEME WAS VERY APT BECAUSE CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS SHOULD BEGIN AT HOME AND INSTILLED IN EVERY MEMBER OF SOCIETY WHILE THEY WERE STILL YOUNG. -- MORE
 1340MST 04 04 87

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS MEANT RESPONSIBILITY NOT ONLY TO ONE'S OWN PROPERTY BUT ALSO TO OTHERS AND THIS ALSO MEANT SAFEGUARDING ONE'S OWN INTEREST.

THIS CONCEPT WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IN MODERN SOCIETY, PUBLIC PROPERTY INCREASED AND SHOULD BE SAFEGUARDED BY THE PEOPLE EVEN THOUGH +THE PROPERTY MAY HAVE NO USE FOR US.+

HE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT OR LOCAL AUTHORITY HAD TO REPAIR OR REPLACE THE PROPERTY USING PUBLIC FUNDS COLLECTED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

+THOUGH NOT ALL OF US ARE PAYING TAXES BUT MONEY SPENT ON SUCH REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENT MEANT LESS MONEY TO PROVIDE OTHER FACILITIES FOR ALL OF US,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+WE MAY TEND TO FEEL THAT ONLY A SMALL SUM WAS INVOLVED, BUT IF THE COST OF DAMAGE TO PUBLIC PROPERTY DUE TO LACK OF CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS WAS TOTALLED ACROSS THE COUNTRY, IT COULD GO UP TO MILLIONS OF RINGGIT,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AN ACT OF VANDALISM TO A LIFT COULD CAUSE ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS AND AFFECT THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PEOPLE APART FROM AFFECTING PUBLIC IMAGE.

+IF WE ARE CIVIC CONSCIOUS AND TAKE CARE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY, ALL OF US WILL STAND TO BENEFIT.+

HE SAID A SOCIETY WHICH WAS CIVIC-CONSCIOUS WOULD LIVE IN COMFORT AND ALL MATTERS COULD BE HANDLED SMOOTHLY AND SPEEDILY BECAUSE WASTAGE OF MONEY AND TIME HAD BEEN AVOIDED.

+IF WE REALISE THAT THE QUESTION OF CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS IS NOT A QUESTION OF OTHERS CORRECTING THEMSELVES BUT EVERYONE ACKNOWLEDGING THE MISTAKE AND CORRECTING IT, THEN EFFORTS TO IMBUE CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL,+ HE SAID.

THE MOULDING OF CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS REQUIRED FULL INVOLVEMENT BY PARENTS AND TEACHERS AND THIS EFFORT SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AT ALL TIMES AND NOT JUST IN THE CLASSROOM. -- MORE

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THIS MEANT PARENTS AND TEACHERS SHOULD MONITOR THE MOVEMENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER THEIR CARE AT ALL TIMES.

A SCHOOL WHOSE PROPERTY WAS NOT DAMAGED BY VANDALS ONLY REFLECTED THE DEGREE OF CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE SCHOOL CONCERNED, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PUBLIC RESPONSE TO CALLS TO SAFEGUARD PROPERTY WOULD DEPEND ON HOW WELL THOSE SPECIALLY ENTRUSTED WITH THIS RESPONSIBILITY DID THEIR JOB.

INFORMATION MINISTER TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN WHO ALSO SPOKE AT THE FUNCTION SAID THE CAMPAIGN WAS AIMED AT INFUSING CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS AND CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG THE PEOPLE.

THE CAMPAIGN WOULD STRESS ON FAMILY EDUCATION AND DISCIPLINE AND WOULD BE CARRIED OUT MAINLY VIA THE MEDIA PARTICULARLY THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA.

HE URGED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ACTIVELY INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THE CAMPAIGN BY INSTILLING CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG THE PEOPLE. -- MORE

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ALSO PRESENT WERE SELANGOR MENTERI BESAR DATUK MUHAMMAD HAJI MUHAMMAD TAIB, FEDERAL CABINET MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS.

EARLIER THE PRIME MINISTER JOINED THE RTM CHOIR IN SINGING +KITA RAKYAT MALAYSIA+ AND +BERJAYA+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO VISITED THE EXHIBITION DISPLAYING ITEMS ON CIVIC-CONSCIOUSNESS AT THE FOYER OF WISMA RADIO, ANGKASAPURI RTM COMPLEX. -- BERNAMA

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