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MAHATHIR-SOCIAL
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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 6⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED FOR A RETURN TO THE WAY OF LIFE OF RURAL COMMUNITIES OF THE PAST WHICH GAVE EMPHASIS TO MUTUAL HELP AND TO ADOPT THIS PRACTICE IN URBAN HOUSING ESTATES.

SELF-CENTREDNESS WITHOUT REGARD FOR ONE'S NEIGHBOURS MUST BE DISPELLED AS THE STABILITY OF A COMMUNITY LAY IN THE COHESIVENESS OF ITS MEMBERS, HE SAID.

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS OF FORGING UNITY WAS THROUGH VOLUNTARY BODIES, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING A NATIONAL WELFARE SEMINAR HERE.

THROUGH THESE ORGANISATIONS, MEMBERS OF SOCIETY COULD WORK TOGETHER IRRESPECTIVE OF ORIGIN, RACE OR RELIGION IN AID OF THOSE IN NEED, HE SAID.

+WELFARE WORK, WHETHER GIVEN IN TERMS OF MONEY, TIME OR SKILLS, WILL BRING US ALL CLOSER TOGETHER,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIANS NEEDED TO RESPECT ONE ANOTHER MORE AS THE WELLBEING AND STABILITY OF THE NATION DEPENDED ON THE HARMONY AND STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID MALAYSIANS WERE ALREADY WELLKNOWN FOR THEIR KINDHEARTEDNESS AND GENEROSITY AND THE MAJORITY OF THEM DID NOT HESITATE TO STEP FORWARD TO HELP THE UNFORTUNATE IN TIMES OF DISASTER.

THIS READINESS TO HELP NEEDED TO BE NURTURED AND HARNESSSED FOR THE BENEFIT OF DISADVANTAGED GROUPS IN SOCIETY, HE SAID, ADDING THAT ANY PERSON

-- WHETHER A CHILD, AN ELDERLY OR HANDICAPPED PERSON -- POSSESSED INHERENT QUALITIES THAT COULD BE DIVERTED TO HIS OWN NEEDS AND THOSE OF SOCIETY AT LARGE.

AS SUCH, THESE PEOPLE MUST BE GIVEN ALL THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE THEM LIVE A MORE MEANINGFUL LIFE AND NOT BECOME ALIENATED FROM THEIR FELLOWMEN, HE SAID.

EARLIER WELFARE SERVICES MINISTER MUSTAFFA MOHAMED SAID THE THREE-DAY SEMINAR WAS AIMED AT STUDYING CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS CONFRONTING SOCIETY AND PINPOINTING THE CAUSES. -- MORE
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IT WOULD ATTEMPT TO OUTLINE PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES TO CHECK THE PROBLEMS AND ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF PARENTS, VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS IN SOCIAL WORK.

THREE PAPERS, ON CHILDREN, THE AGED AND THE HANDICAPPED, WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE MEETING BEING ATTENDED BY WELFARE AND STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF VOLUNTARY BODIES. --
BERNAMA

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