

Mahathir: Revive neighbourly spirit

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By NURAINA SAMAD

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Prime Minister today called for the revival of the spirit of neighbourliness among Malaysians in the interest of national unity and stability.

He said individualistic and selfish traits should be discarded because the stability of a community depended on how strong and united it is.

"This spirit of neighbourliness which is distinct in a village community of the past should be revived and expanded particularly to urban housing estates," he said when opening the three-day *National Seminar on Social Welfare* at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said this spirit of caring for one another can help society play its role of monitoring the behaviour and action of the young so that they would grow up to be responsible individuals.

In this respect, he also called on Malaysians to help one another particularly the needy, regardless of race and religion.

"Through welfare and charity we can be closer and united. As Malaysians, we need to respect one another because peace and stability of the country depend on the harmony that exists among the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the people's contribution and participation in welfare activities were helpful in overcoming

certain problems in society.

He said the services of everyone, including the young, old and handicapped, were useful in national development.

In this regard, it was important that they be given every facility and help to enable them to lead a more meaningful life and be part of the mainstream of society.

Dr Mahathir noted that Malaysians were a charitable and generous lot who would not hesitate to help those in need.

This distinct trait among Malaysians should be positively exploited to help the less fortunate.

Dr Mahathir expressed the hope that the activities of welfare organisations in the

country would be expanded.

The Government, he added, would continue to give encouragement and the necessary assistance to help realise this objective.

Also present were the Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali, Welfare Services Minister Mustaffa Mohamad and senior Government officials.