

PM: Good values, family the answer

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Strong religious and moral values, enhanced by sound family background, can ensure tomorrow's youths are free from dadah, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the role of religion and parents as well as the improvement of management skills of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) must be given attention as long-term strategies towards eradicating drug abuse.

"The community and the family represent the last frontiers in safeguarding our survival as social and human beings," he said in his keynote address at the 10th International Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations (IFNGO) conference on the prevention of drug and substance abuse here.

The text of his speech was read by Finance Minister Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin.

Dr Mahathir said in line with the theme of the conference *From global commitment to commun-*

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ity action, there was a need to strengthen the roles and functions of the community and parents by re-orienting and re-educating them to conform with the changing demands of society.

The Prime Minister also spoke of the role of NGOs saying that they must co-operate at all levels to ensure that drug abuse and trafficking are effectively tackled.

"The responsibility of undertaking drug abuse prevention programmes in the community is not the sole monopoly of any individual NGO."

He said a participatory approach needed to be acquired for effective community intervention against drug abuse adding that it should be more people-oriented rather than service-oriented to be more effective.

"The participatory approach allows the growth of local leadership, community consciousness and revival of social controls that will deter the spread of drug addiction."

He noted that plans formulated to combat the drug problem would then be more easy to implement as they would be based on local needs, problems and resources.

Dr Mahathir also said the Government would continue to support NGOs because their laudable efforts were regarded as complementing and supplementing those of the Government.