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MAHATHIR - FAMILY  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 11 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED MALAYSIANS NOT TO SEVER FAMILY TIES WITH RELATIVES WHO MAY BE OF DIFFERENT RACE.

INTER-RACIAL MARRIAGES SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AS LONG AS THEY DID NOT AFFECT RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES AND CERTAIN CUSTOMS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+IN MALAYSIA CERTAIN GROUPS DETEST THE WORD ASSIMILATION, WE IN FACT SHOULD NOT SEVER FAMILY TIES WITH INDIVIDUALS OF DIFFERENT RACE,+ HE SAID.

ONCE FAMILY LINKS WERE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RACE THROUGH MARRIAGE, THE PARTIES CONCERNED SHOULD NOT BREAK OFF LINKS WITH THEIR ORIGINAL FAMILIES, HE SAID WHEN LAUNCHING THE NATIONAL FAMILY DAY 1990 AT THE BANDAR TUN RAZAK SOCCER STADIUM IN CHERAS HERE.

+THIS DOES NOT REPRESENT GOVERNMENT POLICY, BUT IS ONLY MY VIEW AS I HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT OF MY OWN RACE BUT I ACCEPT THEM AS MEMBERS OF AN EXTENDED FAMILY,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR - FAMILY 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID NATIONAL FAMILY DAY HAD A MAJOR OBJECTIVE AND MEANING AS FAR AS MALAYSIA WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE THE FAMILY AND FAMILY TIES WERE THE BASIS OF MALAYSIAN SOCIETY PARTICULARLY WHEN THE NATION WAS EXPERIENCING DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS.

EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE MATERIAL PROGRESS AND MODERNISATION SHOULD BE CONTINUED BUT IN PURSUING SUCH AIMS THE PEOPLE SHOULD AVOID EROSION OF SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE FAMILY, HE SAID.

+THIS IS WHY THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT IS GIVING SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THE FAMILY AS A SOCIAL INSTITUTION WHICH SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AND MAINTAINED.+

+THE NATIONAL FAMILY DAY IS BEING OBSERVED TO ENABLE US TO REMEMBER THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY AS A VITAL INSTITUTION IN OUR MALAYSIAN SOCIETY,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+WE HAVE SEEN HOW THE INSTITUTION OF FAMILY HAD DECLINED IN COUNTRIES WHERE THERE WAS RAPID DEVELOPMENT,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE MOVE TO TOWNS AND FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER IN THE INTEREST OF LIVELIHOOD HAD TO SOME EXTENT SEVERED FAMILY LINKS. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR - FAMILY 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FIRST GENERATION WHICH LEFT THE KAMPUNGS STILL REMEMBERED THEIR KAMPUNG FOLKS AND FAMILIES BUT THE SECOND GENERATION WHICH GREW UP IN TOWNS WAS NOT CLOSE TO THEIR RELATIVES IN THE KAMPUNGS.

MOREOVER THE SECOND GENERATION ALSO DID NOT SET UP FAMILIES WITH CLOSE TIES IN THE URBAN AREAS.

THE THIRD GENERATION MIGHT EVEN COMPLETELY CUT OFF LINKS WITH THEIR KAMPUNG FOLKS, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IF SOMETHING WAS NOT DONE TO PRESERVE THE FAMILY UNIT, THE PRESENT TREND WOULD SOONER OR LATER AFFECT THE INSTITUTION OF FAMILY

+WE DO NOT WISH TO MAKE MALAYSIA A WELFARE STATE LIKE IN THE WEST WHERE THE ELDERS BECOME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ARE PLACED IN OLD FOLKS HOME FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES,+ HE SAID.

+IF WE DO NOT STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY INSTITUTION AND FAMILY LOVE, WE MAY WITNESS SAD EVENTS SUCH AS WHEN OLD FOLKS DIE THEY WILL HAVE TO BE BURIED WITHOUT ANYONE FROM THE FAMILY BEING PRESENT,+ HE SAID.

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MAHATHIR - FAMILY 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S EMPHASIS ON THE INSTITUTION OF FAMILY WAS NOT LIMITED TO INDIVIDUAL FAMILY TIES.

+IN MALAYSIA, WE LIVE IN A MUCH BIGGER FAMILY -- A MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY

-- WHICH IS ALSO OUR FAMILY.+

EVEN THOUGH THE FAMILY TIES OF THE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY AS A WHOLE WERE NOT AS THICK AS THAT OF THE NORMAL FAMILY, IT WAS OF NO LESS IMPORTANCE IN ENSURING THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF MALAYSIA, HE SAID.

+IN VIEW OF THIS, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT WE HAVE CLOSE AND CORDIAL TIES AS ONE BIG FAMILY OF MALAYSIANS AND WE WILL NOT LOSE ANYTHING BY DOING SO,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

IN TOWNS AND CITIES WHERE MALAYSIANS WERE STAYING, NEIGHBOURS WERE NOT FROM THEIR OWN FAMILY OR NOT EVEN FROM THEIR OWN RACE OR RELIGION BUT IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES, ONE NEIGHBOUR COMING TO THE AID OF ANOTHER WAS STILL IMPORTANT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- BERNAMA  
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