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CONTRIBUTIONS OF SENIOR CITIZENS STILL IMPORTANT, SAYS MAHATHIR

(Embargo: For release at 10pm today)

Mahathir-family

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- The contributions of senior citizens are still important in the pursuit of national development, especially in ensuring continuity of eastern values and culture among the younger generation, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

+The elderly are a rich source of knowledge and experience for creating harmonious families and as such the young should be taught to respect them, + he added.

In a nationally televised message in conjunction with the 1991 National Family Day celebrations, he said all parents should create the most conducive atmosphere for fostering happy families.

In such an atmosphere, all members of the family would be able to achieve greater potential for achieving balanced productivity from the spiritual and physical aspects, he added.

The Prime Minister urged parents to learn the techniques required to overcome problems faced by their children and communication strategies necessary for enhancing family ties. -- more

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Mahathir-family 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the family system as a basic institution of society should be retained and strengthened for the sake of national development.

+The strength and integrity of a family can influence and ensure the stability of a society, + he added.

He said the number of households nationwide was expected to increase from 3.2 million last year to 4.2 million in the year 2000 and 6.7 million in 2020.

With this increase, a strong, mature and healthy family system was vital to mould responsible children into useful citizens, he said.

He said it was important to study the role of the family institution to bring the country to a more challenging level of progress, especially to check the spread of social problems peculiar to developed countries. -- Bernama

♥10/11/21-31MST

CNS1095