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MAHATHIR ADVISBS YOUTH NOT TO DE INFLUENCED BY WESTERN CULTURE

Mahathir-youth

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IPOH, May 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on youths to prepare themselves to achieve the Vision 2020 objective by keeping away from western values and culture which are not suitable for the country's progress.

The Prime Minister said that as inheritors of the country they must discipline themselves and be prepared to repel the tide of foreign thinking and culture, which clearly exceeded bounds, even though they might be branded old-fashioned in the process.

Freedom was not a goal but only a means towards achieving happiness and progress, he said when launching the National Youth Day assembly at Stadium Indera Mulia, here.

+Just as we are free to copy, we must also be free not to copy and to retain our identity if; by doing so, we can gain happiness and respect, he added.

He said youths should retain old values and cultural aspects in Malaysian society like respect for rules and reasonable curbs on freedom': ..  
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▼05/05/13-09MST

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Mahathir-youth 2 Ipoh

He said unlimited freedom, worshiped in the West, would destroy the people and cause them to be despised, become backward and be left behind forever.

What was important was for the people to know what to, sieve out and throw away not only from foreign culture and values but also Malaysian culture-and values.

+Just as we know that the bad values and culture of developed society are not good for us, we must also be vigilant and realise that there are some among our own cultures and values which are bad and had resulted in our not achieving development earlier, he added.

Dr Mahathir said that to progress, the people must curb their desires and adopt noble values and culture which nurtured the dignity and respect of the race.

The institution of the family and marriage must be respected and upheld and noble traits like courtesy and discipline maintained.

The emphasis given to these noble cultures and values was important because the country wanted to achieve a high level of development as envisioned in Vision 2020, he added. -- more

▼05/05/13-26MST

CNS4222

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Mahathir-youth 3 Ipoh

Dr Mahathir said that if the people were only out to enjoy themselves, were lazy and indisciplined and had no respect for good rules on dressing or bodily appearance, the country would not progress.

Adopting progressive ways and cultures from the developed countries was a sound move but the people should understand what was happening to developed society, he added.

The Prime Minister said developed society was now heading for regression and destruction because of its obsession with individual freedom and rejection of old cultural values.

Countries in the West now regarded the individual as king, 'free from any prohibition or regulation, to the extent that he abandoned religion, he added-

As a result, they became an immoral society, rejecting the institution of marriage and family and accepting the practice of living together and homosexuality while the children no longer recognised their fathers, he' said. -- more

▼05/05/13-42MST

CNS4230

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Mahathir-youth 4 (last) Ipoh

The Prime Minister was given a grand welcome, complete with +kompang+ 'drums and +bunga manggar+ bearers, on arrival at the Sultan Azlan Shah airport here this morning. A total of 5,000 youths and state dignitaries turned out to greet him.

Accompanied by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib, he inspected a guard of honour made up of members of youth and political organisations throughout the country before being escorted to Stadium Indera Mulia in a motorcycle procession.

At the stadium, he took the salute and inspected a guard of honour of 200 uniformed schoolchildren.

At the function, he also launched the Perak Youth Day celebrations, the inaugural Universal Malaysia Programme and Prime Youth Award and received a book containing 1 million signatures from youths throughout the country expressing their support for him to continue to lead the country. -- Bernama

▼05/05/13-45MST