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DR MAHATHIR ON 2020 VISION AND QUALITY OF FAMILIES

Mahathir-family

(Embargo: For release after 10pm, July 1)

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded all groups that the nation's success in becoming a developed nation by 2020 depends largely on the quality of the family.

Launching the +Rumahku Syurgaku+ programme at the main auditorium, Angkasapuri, here, the prime minister said families were important social units in society which could decide the direction of the community development.

As such, he said, every group should play its role in setting up happy families and the state governments should take the initiative to implement the programme.

Dr Mahathir said, however, that the government's aspiration to create a caring society would not be realised if individuals, who were important elements in the society, ignored positive qualities that they should possess. -- more

▼01/07/21-58MST

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Mahathir-families 2, Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

As such, noble qualities enjoined by Islam like love of country and family, discipline, tolerance, competitiveness and not wasting time should be practised instead of being paid lip service to, he said.

The prime minister also reminded parents that they had an important role in understanding the nation's aspirations and helping to form the young generation's identity to be in consonance with changes that would take place by 2020.

He said the government constantly gave serious attention to the happiness of the family and its role in the society because it did not want the moral degradation and the destruction of the family institution in the west, as a result of unlimited freedom, to occur in this country.

+Without families there is no continuity for human values in the sense that these values cannot be passed on to the next generation,+ Dr Mahathir said, adding that the government would not only strive to defend the institution of the family but would upgrade its quality through various programmes so that the people could enjoy the fruits of the nation's development.

He said for example that the government viewed the poverty eradication programme not only from the material aspect but also from that of human quality as a whole including knowledge deprivation and moral degradation which had an effect on the nation's prosperity. -- more

▼01/07/22-01MST

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Mahathir-families 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

Dr Mahathir said the launch of the +Rumahku Syurgaku+ programme was timely as the government was drawing up strategies and plans towards making Malaysia a developed nation.

Apart from that he also wanted parents as well as the young generation to understand and practise the teachings of the Quran which explained how the head of the family could ensure his children kept to the right path.

To the young generation who would be taking over the nation's leadership, the prime minister advised them to cultivate and develop noble qualities and respect their parents.

He said they should return to the teachings of Islam and the Quran because most of social problems now were the result of insufficient education and religious upbringing.

The prime minister also said that an important factor in setting up a happy family was education and religious upbringing and for the Muslims Islam that should be the basis.

Apart from qualities like honesty, sincerity and helping each other to bring about happiness, society should always be thankful for what it had received, he added. -- Bernama

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Mahathir-families 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur (reopens item)

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, in his speech, said the programme was organised to draw society's attention to the importance of the institution of the family.

He said the effort must be made in preparation for the country's development in future in view that moral degradation and destruction of other positive values were usually associated with development.

+The government does not want such a thing to happen and feels it is necessary to prepare effective programmes from now,+ he said.

He also said that in conjunction with the programme a month-long exhibition on happy family would be held at Pusat Islam starting on Friday.

-- Bernama

▼01/07/23-32MST