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MAHATHIR SAYS YOUTHS WHO APE THE WEST DO THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE NO GOOD

Mahathir-Youth (With pix)

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 10 (Bernama) -- Malaysian youth who ape western culture and lifestyle would be of no benefit to the country in its efforts to become a developed country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Their blind acceptance of all things west, without considering whether they were good or bad, was unhealthy and unfortunate, he added.

Speaking when he launched a +Youth in Nation Building+ exhibition at the Lot 10 departmental store here, he said: +Things like the rock culture, long hair, men wearing earrings, dadah addiction and immoral activities have increased and become the behaviour of some of our youths.

+These youths would be of no help in shaping a new generation that will become future national leaders.+

Dr Mahathir said such unhealthy values needed to be eradicated in order to ensure that the values of the country's superior cultural heritage were not jeopardised. -- more

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He added: +Vision 2020 aims to create a society that is moral, ethical and free from influences like a free lifestyle that allows them to do anything they pleased without considering whether it was good or bad.+

He called on the youths to be willing to strive and not depend on others, especially the government, to prepare themselves to pursue the objectives of the vision to make Malaysia a developed country.

Negative attitudes long held by youths, like the fear of taking risks, intolerance, lack of interest in beneficial pursuits, non-cooperation and selfishness, needed to be discarded, he said.

He added: +They should have a clear objective in life, high aspirations to succeed, self-discipline and the courage to face change for the good.+

Dr. Mahathir said in addition to a change of attitude to suit the times, youths should also enhance their knowledge.

+In this age of information explosion, youths should not be unable to keep up with the various development in information and knowledge taking place in their daily lives,+ he added. -- more

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They should realise that without high knowledge they could get nowhere or help the country reach the pinnacle of success in future.

He also emphasised the need for youths must also expand their skills in order to progress.

Dr. Mahathir advised them to be active in youth organisations, something which the government had constantly encouraged them to do.

He also called for greater interaction among the youths of various races in efforts to create a united Malaysian race.

In this context, there was a need to reduce youth organisations identified with race.

He said: +The culture and language of a community won't disappear just because we bring together the various races.+

Youths should also instil in themselves the spirit of sacrifice, loyalty and love for the nation, he added.

This could be achieved through spirit-building and self-enrichment programmes, he said. -- Bernama

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