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Mahathir-village

PRESERVE VILLAGE CULTURE AS FOUNDATION OF DEVELOPED SOCIETY, SAYS PM
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TAPAH, July 22 (Bernama) -- The government will strive to preserve positive village culture as the foundation for building a developed Malaysian nation having good morals by the year 2020, the Prime Minister said today.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said village culture which placed importance on good neighbourliness, morality, religion and good relations among the people would be upheld.

The concept of a developed nation desired for the country required creation of people who were capable, knowledgeable, able to compete in all fields and efficient as well as leading a moral life, he added.

Launching the "Kampungku" programme at Batu Tiga Jalan Pahang here, he said in the quest to build a developed country, Malaysia could not escape the problem of migration of the rural people to towns as a result of economic progress.

Nevertheless, they should continue to preserve positive village values in their life in the urban centres, he added. -- more

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Mahathir-village 2 Tapah

Dr Mahathir said the progress that the government wanted in 2020 was a developed nation able to compete with other countries and prepared to face challenges.

The people had proven that they could compete with other countries, even developed nations like the United States and Japan, in sophisticated fields like the manufacture of cars, he added.

"Such a situation should be continued by instilling an attitude of wanting to improve ourselves and prepared to face challenges, to learn and not to lose heart in overcoming all obstacles," he said. -- more

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Mahathir-village 3 Tapah

He said Malaysia would see rapid development in the next 30 years with the rural people migrating to towns and creating a society practising urban culture and shedding village culture.

A negative aspect of the urban culture was the lack of contact among neighbours, many of whom did not even know one another, he added.

Dr Mahathir said the government launched the "Kampungku" programme to instill village culture among rural migrants to the towns.

The government did not want to create an urban society devoid of respect for the family institution, cohabited out of wedlock and ignored the institution of marriage, neighbours, morality and religion as was the case in western countries, he added.

This was now widespread in the west, where society was facing collapse, he said, adding: "We do not want this phenomena to surface in this country when we become a developed nation."

He said societies in developed nations had lost their sense of direction and many people migrated to towns in search of money merely to pay for their enjoyment without having to be tied to responsibilities. -- more

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Mahathir-village 4 (last) Tapah

Malaysia could venture into sophisticated fields if the people were prepared to upgrade their capabilities and overcome the inferiority complex, he added.

With self-confidence, a deep interest and high capabilities, Malaysians could compete with other nations which had progressed without discarding the village culture.

Dr Mahathir said the "Kampungku" programme formed part of government efforts to ensure that the people did not lose their sense of direction when they achieved progress and the country attained developed nation status.

On his arrival at the site of the launching, the Prime Minister was accorded a traditional welcome by about 20,000 people.

While visiting the stalls, Dr Mahathir treated two patients, both residents of Kampong Batu Tiga Jalan Pahang.

He later opened the Kuala Woh Caravan Park and visited the Kuala Woh Orang Asli settlement. -- Bernama

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