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Mahathir-orphans

ORPHANS SHOULD BE TAUGHT TO BE INDEPENDENT, SAYS DR M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said today orphans should be provided with guidance so that they could be independent and motivated for their own interest and that of society.

He said that they should not be allowed to too dependent on assistance all their life to the extent of being a burden to society.

Opening the Yayasan Kebajikan Anak-Anak Yatim Malaysia (Yatim) at Pusat Islam here, he said that guardians or organisations should not pamper them too much so that they would be capable of being independent.

Dr Mahathir said that he was heartened to note that at this time of rapid economic growth, there were those who were successful but chose not to forget those were were less fortunate.

He also said that those who were successful and conglomerates should also remember those who were discharging their duties within the country and abroad especially the security forces. -- more

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Yatim, according to an official, was set up to look into the welfare of orphans who were brilliant irregardless of race, religion or colour to ensure that they received quality education.

In the initial stage, Yatim will select orphans from orphanages throughout the country based on their academic achievement to be placed in Yatim hostels.

Yatim's funds will come from donations from business and corporate bodies and individuals. The chairman of Yatim's board of Trustees is Datuk Ahmad Sebi Bakar.

At the function, the Prime Minister received donations totalling RM11 million from several corporate bodies and firms and individuals. They include Renong, Berjaya, Multipurpose Holdings, GT Consultants, Advance Energy Group, Tajuddin Ramli, Tun Daim Zainuddin and Tan Sri Vincent Tan.

-- Bernama

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