

Mahathir-Family

DON'T FALL FOR WESTERN INTERPRETATION OF FAMILY, WARNS PM

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight reminded Malaysians not to fall for the Western interpretation of family.

The Prime Minister said the West now considered a family could comprise a single adult with a child and also accepted homosexual or lesbian couples who adopted a child as their own.

"If we are not careful, we may fall for this interpretation which can destroy the family institution as we know it in this country," he said at the premiere screening of the film "Jeritan Batinku" and launching of the magazine "Kasih" sponsored by the Islamic Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department at Dewan Merdeka, Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Dr Mahathir said the West rejected Malaysia's interpretation that a family should comprise a father and mother and their children when its representative spoke at a United Nations conference.

He said the rejection was unsurprising since the West had recognised "marriage" between two men or two women, couples living together out of wedlock and couples swapping partners. -- more

▼12/08/23-50MST

CNS0402

R GE 13-08 00112 EG720

enq

Mahathir-Family 2 Kuala Lumpur

This had resulted in the deterioration of social problems in the West, he said.

Eventually, he added, there would be marriages between brothers and sisters since they would no longer know who their own parents were.

Dr Mahathir urged Malaysians to maintain the existing family institution in the country by nurturing feelings of full affection.

This would not only produce happy families but also ensure a well-mannered Malaysian community, he said.

He said the recent death of Mohammad Afiq showed how the absence of family love could bring suffering to an innocent child. -- more

▼13/08/00-02MST

CNS0403

R GE 13-08 00195 EG721

enq

Mahathir-Family 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Although the father of the child was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, he said, the fact remained that Mohammad Afiq could not be restored to life.

He said the incident was among many cases of child abuse which occurred in the country lately due to the erosion of the institution of family.

"We have to stop it before it is too late. I very much hope the collapse of the family institution in the West will not spread to our country," he said.

He described the screening of "Jeritan Batinku" as most timely and hoped it would produce the desired effect.

At the function, Dr Mahathir received cheques contributed by companies, individuals and religious bodies to the Tabung Amanah Rumahku Syurgaku.

"Jeritan Batinku" depicts the suffering of a young girl forced to live with her aunt after the death of her parents.

Produced by Arif Skop Production, the film's main characters are acted by Aziz Jaafar, Rosnah Mohd Aris, Normah Damanhuri, Puteri Nor Mariah, Raja Nor Baizura and Nor Albaniah. -- Bernama

AH CTL