

PM: Don't be influenced by West's family concept

By Manan Osman

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Malaysians should not be influenced by Western ideas which do not give much emphasis to the family institution. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said there was also a gross misinterpretation of the family concept by some people in the West.

He said according to them, even homosexual and lesbian couples who adopted a child could be considered a "family".

"Their family concept as opposed to the Malaysian way is a clear indication of the moral decadence and the West's attitude towards the family institution.

"They (Western people) even opposed our concept of a family when the matter was brought up by our representative at a United Nations conference," he said at the launch of the magazine *Kasih* and the film premiere of *Jeritan Batinku* at the Putra World Trade Centre here tonight.

The launch of the book and the premiere were held in aid of the *Rumah Ku Syurga Ku* (My home is my paradise) trust fund.

Dr Mahathir said some people in the West not only did not recognise the family institution but they also did not recognise marriages.

"Living out of wedlock is the phenomenon and this has resulted in children not knowing their parents," he said.

He advised parents to refrain from abusing their children as they might get used to it.

Instead, he said, parents should foster a caring attitude in order to develop a

loving and harmonious family.

He said the latest child abuse case involving the death of two-year-old Mohamed Afiq Yusoff should be a lesson to Malaysian

families on the importance of a caring family.

He said although the boy's father was sentenced to 20 years' jail it would not bring him (Mohamed Afiq) back.

Jeritan Batinku depicts the plight of an orphan who was mistreated by her aunt until she could not stand it anymore and ran away from home only to be further abused by her foster family.

The movie, produced by Arif Skop Production, features local artistes such as veteran actor Aziz Jaafar, Normah Damanhuri, Raja Noor Baizura and Nor Al-baniah.