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'Loving families vital for a caring society'

By LEE KAR YEAN

KUALA LUMPUR: Loving families are essential towards fostering a caring society, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said last night.

"We have the responsibility to raise families which are caring and the members love one another," he said.

"If we teach our young to cultivate this loving feeling then the people in our society will know how to love and care for one another," he said at the charity premiere of *Jeritan Batinku* at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Proceeds from the show will go to My House is My Paradise trust fund for abused children.

The fund was set up by the Islamic Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department.

Dr Mahathir said the tragedy of two year-old Mohamed Afiq Yusoff, who died recently, would not have occurred if there was love.

"Although the father has been sentenced to 20 years' jail, the life of the boy can never be returned," he said.

Dr Mahathir cautioned society against letting child abuse and other social ills to become the norm.

He later received RM30,000 in donations from individuals and private companies for the fund.