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Mahathir-Youth

DON'T BE TOO IDEALISTIC, SAYS PM

MELAKA, May 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government will try its best to fulfil the aspirations and needs of youths but reminded them that not all their ideals can be realised.

The Prime Minister said as a youth he too had his own ideals, but when he had the power to implement them in his adult life he still could not do so.

"This is because not all ideals can be implemented. Sometimes it is too idealistic to be implemented although we have the powers," he said when performing the ground-breaking ceremony for the RM100 million World Youth Foundation (WYF) Complex in Ayer Keroh here.

Dr Mahathir said as a young man he frequently criticised older people and the government for not implementing what he considered to be ideal.

However, Dr Mahathir said only when he grew older and had the powers in his hands did he realise how difficult it was to implement all of one's ideals.

He said his experience in his youth had taught him the need to intensify efforts to develop youths in the country.

However, the government was aware that not everything it was doing was agreeable to the youths.

Dr Mahathir said this was because he had also felt that same way as people did not like others to meddle with their rights and freedom.

"But the government had to do what is doing because while it does not wish to take away the rights of youths, it also has a responsibility to ensure they are equipped to see to the success of all that is planned," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was important for the government to control youth activities and to mould their lives, and he was confident that they would eventually see the wisdom of this.

The complex is being built on the build-operate-transfer (BOT) concept on a 3.8-hectare site obtained from the state government at RM600,000 although the market value of the land is RM2.5 million.

It will be operational in September 1998 before the Commonwealth Games.

Dr Mahathir hoped that the complex would be properly administered so that it can achieve its noble aims.

-- BERNAMA

AH YBY