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Anwar-Inmates

INMATES AT REHAB CENTRES CAN SUCCEED IF THEY WANT, SAYS DPM

BUTTERWORTH, May 5 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today inmates of dadah rehabilitation centres could succeed in life if they wished to as people who have made bigger mistakes have been able to do that.

He said the inmates could correct their past mistakes which are not as bad as those made by others including such well-known leaders as Malcolm X.

It is up to them to learn from past mistakes and strive to achieve success in life, he said during a visit to the Bukit Mertajam rehabilitation centre.

Anwar said he was confident that the inmates could rehabilitate themselves as "although many cases have failed, if they make the right switch they can become responsible persons".

Citing the case of Malcolm X, he said the well-known American black leader, who is also known as Imam Syahid Abdul Malik Al-Syabash, was once a robber and dadah pusher.

But he succeeded in life due to his perseverance and his efforts must be emulated, Anwar said.

"Tomorrow, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will table on the Seventh Malaysia Plan and there's an important chapter which he will stress on," he said.

However, the plan would mean nothing to the hundreds of thousands of people involved in dadah addiction unless they chose to correct past mistakes, the Deputy Minister said.

He said the dadah problem in Malaysia was serious and the government had spent RM517 million between 1984 and last year on rehabilitation programmes.

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