

04 AUG 1996

Anwar

LEGISLATIONS ALONE WILL NOT OVERCOME SOCIAL ILLS, SAYS ANWAR

KANGAR, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- A society free of social ills could be achieved through maturity of attitude and values nurtured at home, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

He said that the home is the ideal place to inculcate virtues to help reduce problems like child abuse, wife battery and dumping of new-born babies.

The government was making efforts to deal with such problems but legislations alone would not overcome them, he said at a meet-the-people session here.

Anwar said that the people should also strive to gain respect by acquiring knowledge and keeping abreast with developments.

They should learn from the experiences of others to be able to initiate changes for the benefit of society, he added.

He said that they should be bold enough to determine the changes to be made and not wait for others to lead.

In this respect, he said, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had taken the initiative to launch the Multi-media Super Corridor to ensure that Malaysia is not left behind in the rapid development of the multi-media.

The people should equip themselves with knowledge to keep up with this rapidly developing field, he added.

Anwar also said that in order to forge ahead, the younger generation should build on the foundation already laid by past leaders who have brought great successes to the country.

He said that the country had gained the respect of the world and this should be maintained at all costs.

Among the reasons for Malaysia's successes were the efforts made by the government to distribute the country's wealth fairly among the people and to eradicate poverty.

The government also strives to ensure a balance between spiritual and physical development, he added.

Meanwhile, in SEREMBAN, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail said that Rukun Tetangga (RT) bases in the country have been encouraged to carry out programmes to help overcome social problems.

She said that RT bases could provide various services especially in low-cost flats where residents are medium and low-income earners.

Among them are child-care, laundry, food catering and school bus services, she said when opening the Negeri Sembilan-level Jiran Wanita carnival.

She said that the pilot project would be launched at a low-cost flat in Kuala Lumpur.

Such services would help reduce the burden of flat dwellers especially as their children would be well taken care of while they are at work, she added. -- BERNAMA

RAB RM