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Mahathir-Youth

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL TO TACKLE SOCIAL PROBLEMS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 (Bernama) -- The Government will set up a high-level committee to formulate policies and strategies for enhancing social and family development, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

This to help overcome social problems that can impair the moral fabric of future generations, he said when tabling the Seventh Malaysia Plan (7MP) in the Dewan Rakyat.

Dr Mahathir said rapid industrialisation and urbanisation have resulted in an increase in the occurrence of negative social behaviour such as dadah addiction, child abuse, loafing, juvenile delinquencies and unhealthy lifestyles.

And these, he added, imposed strains on the family unit.

Apart from establishing the committee, Dr Mahathir said institutional support would also be reviewed to provide greater focus and coordination of preventive and rehabilitative programmes for target groups such as children, youths and parents.

On youth development, which will one of the trusts of the 7MP, the Prime Minister said the emphasis would be on developing a generation of youths who are not only educated and skilled but also imbued with high moral qualities.

The Rakan Muda Programme will continue to be implemented by the Government in cooperation with the private sector including non-governmental organisations, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the National Youth Policy would be reviewed to focus on youths, particularly problem youths and those who are unemployed with the aim of developing them into productive and good citizens.

On efforts to promote the development of a caring society, he said employers would be encouraged to provide facilities such as creches and nurseries in view of the increasing number of working mothers.

Flexible working hours and the option of working at home will also have to be considered to attract greater participation of women in workforce, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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