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Orphans-Gathering

SOME 1,300 ORPHANS TO GATHER FOR EDUCATION CAMP

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- For the first time, a total of 1,300 orphans from all over the country will be attending a one-week education camp at the main campus of Institut Teknologi Mara (ITM) Shah Alam from Nov 23.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to visit the education camp on Nov 29 to help enlighten the children on the importance of education to safeguard their future.

The gathering is jointly organised by the Malaysian Orphans Welfare Foundation (YATIM) and ITM in collaboration with the New Straits Times, Berita Harian, Utusan Malaysia, Nanyang Siang Pau and also TV3 and RTM.

The Chairman of the organising committee Datuk Kadir Jasin said society had the idea that orphans were only hoping for donations for food and clothing especially during the festive seasons.

"The people forget that besides food and clothing and a roof over their heads these orphans also need mental and emotional support," he said at a news conference at Balai Berita NST here.

He said a study done by Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) showed that academic achievements of orphans were low because most of them were emotionally unstable.

At the education-oriented and mind development gathering the orphans will listen to talks by several experts like Prof Dr Kamsini Kassin, a psychiatrist, leading educationist Prof Tan Sri Awang Had Salleh and motivation expert Dr Fadzillah Kamsan.

He said the participants were from four students of all races selected with the help the Education and Welfare Services Departments according to the criteria decided by the organisers.

He said the participants would also be involved in recreational activities like sports and watch film shows and a parachuting demonstration by men of the Royal Malaysian Air Force besides visiting several buildings in the city including Parliament House and the Menara Kuala Lumpur.

Kadir said as an inspiration for them to study hard and to go for further studies they would visit the 11 faculties of the ITM and given information on the entry qualifications and job opportunities after graduating.

He expected the gathering to be able to rid the public of the stigma that orphans were mischievous and orphanages were rehabilitation centres.

He said YATIM with the cooperation of the corporate sector had conducted several motivation and mind provoking programmes at district levels for about 10,000 orphans nationwide. --BERNAMA

AKT ARA AAM