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Muhyiddin-Youth

STRATEGIES TO HANDLE SOCIAL PROBLEMS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 12 (Bernama) -- Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin today urged relevant agencies to provide information and feedback to the recently formed Cabinet Committee to enable it to draw up policies and programmes to check social problems especially among youths.

He said the committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim would meet soon to consider the feedback thus far received.

"At the meeting we'll identify the major areas of concern and strive to attend to them," he told reporters after opening a seminar on "Social Rehabilitation" organised by the Federal Territory MIC.

Apart from Anwar and Muhyiddin other members of the month-old committee are Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail, Human Resource Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek, Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman.

Tabling the Seventh Malaysia Plan in Parliament on Monday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the committee was formed in view of the increasing instances of negative social behaviour among youth arising from rapid industrialisation and urbanisation and rural-urban migration.

In 1994, there were 17,600 cases of dadah addiction, 8,938 cases of AIDS, 871 cases of child abuse and 4,774 cases of children running away from home in the country.

Muhyiddin also said a Research Division would be set up in the ministry as part of the revamping exercise.

"The division will collaborate with local universities. We'll sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia as it had the expertise in the field of research," he said. -- BERNAMA

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