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Anwar-youths

WIDE SCOPE FOR YOUNGER GENERATION IN HANDLING PROBLEMS

KUALA LUMPUR, April 7 (Bernama) -- There is a lot of room for initiatives that Malaysia's younger generation can take in solving problems faced by society, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

He said they must adopt a positive and pro-active attitude in handling problems especially those related to the younger generation such as dadah abuse and social conflicts.

"Like myself, who had been active in student and youth movements, you sometimes get bored listening to continuous lectures (on the problems) without the opportunity to express your views, to discuss and get sufficient exposure (to find a solution)," he told participants to the Young Generation Leadership Convention organised by Umno Youth at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Anwar, who is also Umno Deputy President, said the party and government leadership gave ample opportunity for the younger generation to participate together in solving social problems.

In face of the rapid economic and national development, he reminded the younger generation not to be complacent as there were still a lot that needed to be done.

The problem of poverty, for example, although no longer serious or widespread is still prevalent.

"Although there is an increasing number of the rich, the poor, if left unattended, would be left out and cut off especially if those championing the cause of the people did not consider the plight of the poor, did not represent the views of those left behind and residing in remote and rural areas, but only pursuing self interest and enriching themselves, it is thus impossible for the struggle to be fruitful," he added.

That was why the Seventh Malaysia Plan, which would be tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad later this month, emphasised on the distribution of national wealth equitably besides identifying economic growth as the main thrust, he said.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, said that for the first time emphasis would be given to social development aspects encompassing education, health, public housing and social problems especially among youths.

Describing the approach as "more wise than mere complaining," he said the problems of the younger generation must be handled comprehensively with the participation of parents and youth movements.

As such, he hoped the younger generation would consider their role and responsibilities and "not throw accusation and pass the responsibility to other institutions and agencies."

Besides religious willpower and strong moral values, the younger generation must also adhere to the rule of law and have the love for scholarly pursuit so as to be successful in championing the cause of the people. -- BERNAMA

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