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PM-Social

BN TO HOLD MEETING TO DISCUSS SOCIAL ILLS AMONG TEENAGERS

BUKIT TINGGI, Feb 25 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said Barisan Nasional will hold a meeting to discuss the increasing social ills among teenagers in the country.

The Prime Minister said the meeting was significant as it would enable all BN members to play a role in overcoming the problem.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the weekly cabinet meeting here, he said that after discussing the matter the ministers felt that the BN should hold a meeting on the subject.

He said the meeting would involve all BN members but was unable to say when it would be held.

"I feel all parties should view the problem seriously, and that's why we feel it's good that the matter be discussed at a meeting of the BN," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said he supported the decision by Umno Youth to launch a programme to identify problem schools and students facing critical problems.

"If they (Umno Youth) can do that ... we can obtain information on the matter and the actions that can be taken," he said.

Yesterday, Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the movement would conduct a thorough study throughout the country next month to identify schools having students with disciplinary problems.

Under the plan, Umno Youth will gather information with the cooperation of disciplinary teachers in the affected schools, and students deemed to have critical disciplinary problems would be absorbed into the Briged Putra movement.

On the call for the Juvenile Act to be amended to hold parents responsible when their children are involved in social problems, Dr Mahathir said he wanted to study the proposal before commenting on it.

"I need to first know the proposal in detail. I don't know yet what decision has been taken by the the parties concerned with regards to this matter," he said.

The proposal was made by Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak two days ago. -- BERNAMA

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