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Hamid-Social

COORDINATED MEASURES TO CHECK SOCIAL ILLS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- There will be coordinated measures by ministries and agencies in enhancing public awareness especially parents in efforts to check social ills.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said today's meeting of the special cabinet committee on social problem also identified the target group.

"Our priority is to enhance public awareness especially the parents. The second action is identifying the target group which is the youngsters at the school level where the process of being naughty starts," he told reporters after attending the meeting at the Prime Minister's Department, here.

The meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was attended by several ministers and representatives of related agencies.

Among them were National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob, Pusat Islam Director-General Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor.

Dr Abdul Hamid said a special secretariat chaired by National Unity and Social Development Ministry would coordinate government actions on the matter.

The government which viewed seriously the social ills besetting society would not compromise on actions to combat the problem, he said.

He said besides apprehending offenders, the government would also give priority to preventive measures.

"We will see how far parenting and premarital courses by Islamic Affairs Development Department could help resolve the problem," he said.

He said related organisations like the Rukun Tetangga and non-governmental organisations would also be mobilised to help the government.

In KUANTAN, Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob suggested that Umno Youth introduced a programme in the rural areas as one ways of complementing government efforts to curb social ills among youths.

The programme could expose youths in villages and Felde land schemes on opportunities available following rapid development in the state, he said.

Pahang needed more trained manpower and school-leavers could be trained to meet the need, he told reporters after receiving a courtesy call by Pahang Umno Youth leaders.

Khalil said Pahang also welcomed the recent statement's by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the development of highlands and forest areas.

He said these areas could be developed for eco-tourism, allowing visitors to have a close look at the beauty of nature. -- BERNAMA

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