

15 MAR 1997

Mahathir-Attitude

INSTIL RESPONSIBILITY FROM YOUNG: SAYS PM

KANGAR, March 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged all parties, especially parents, to instil a sense of responsibility in their children from an early age.

It would be impossible to fight the social ills pervading the country if they were not conscious of their responsibilities, he said.

"To overcome the problem, we must understand what it is all about, its effects and decide what steps must be taken," he told reporters after addressing an assembly of state leaders and the public at the Dewan Warisan here.

For example, he said, history teachers should stress the effects and lessons to be learnt from historical events, and not just make students memorise facts and dates.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir emphasised the need for our youth to have a strong sense of responsibility which serves to steel them against engaging in unhealthy activities.

"If they are irresponsible and do whatever they like, surely our country will collapse, while they become victims of their times," he said.

Dr Mahathir drew attention to countries that faced social discord as a result of their people neglecting good values and causing problems that ultimately affected their own lives.

Therefore, he said, it is only with responsible citizens that a country could prosper and command respect.

During the news conference, the Prime Minister expressed confidence in the state's potential for advancement under the able leadership of its Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

"From what I see, Perlis will go far ... with deep sea ports, container wharves, land reclamation projects and privatisation programmes," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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