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Malays urged to re-examine themselves

SINTOK, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight urged the Malays to re-examine themselves and become good citizens.

He said it was not proper for them to blame the society's development for the many Malays involved in criminal and anti-social activities in the country.

"We cannot blame others. It is easier for us to change and re-examine where our weaknesses are."

Speaking at a breaking of fast with some 1,000 Universiti Utara Malaysia students at the university's mosque, Dr Mahathir said studies on criminal offences and anti-social activities in the country showed that most of them involved the Malays.

The Prime Minister said although social problems involved all races, the percentage of Malays involved was high.

He said more than 67 per cent of all kinds of crimes in the country involved the Malays and Muslims while the percentage of involvement among Chinese was the lowest.

"If we read the newspapers, those who are involved, charged and convicted are the Malays and Muslims. We see dadah cases also involving many Malays."

Dr Mahathir said the Malays should ask themselves whether wealth had weakened them and led to the social problems.

"But the non-Muslims are wealthier than us... why is it that we cannot control ourselves?" he asked.

Dr Mahathir also reminded the university students to concentrate on their studies and stay away from social ills.

"Those who have the opportunity to further their studies should be responsible to themselves and refrain from being involved in social ills like dadah abuse, lepak, bohsia, etc," he added.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and wife Datin Seri Nila Inangda Manyam Keumala and Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

Later, Dr Siti Hasmah, on behalf of the Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers, or Bakti, presented study aid to 22 pupils from schools in the Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency.

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