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Mahathir-Lifestyle

MALAYSIANS' LIFESTYLE SHOULD REFLECT COUNTRY'S NEW IMAGE

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is not happy with the present lifestyle of Malaysians who he said are not symbolising the status of a middle income nation.

The Prime Minister and Umno President said even though Malaysia's status had gone up, Malaysians continued to practise the lifestyle of the past -- that of a backward and poor nation.

He was speaking to reporters after chairing his party's Supreme Council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

In this connection, a special vision would be striven for by local councils to upgrade the standard of living of the people by developing in them clean habits and practices, he said.

Elaborating on what the Prime Minister said, Education Minister and Umno Vice President Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Supreme Council discussed at length Dr Mahathir's call for the cleaning up of public places such as public toilets, food stalls as well as flats.

He said to instill in Malaysians the culture of observing clean practices, the Umno Supreme Council had decided that school children get involved in efforts to keep their schools clean.

"Guidelines will be issued by the Education Ministry soon outlining the role of students in jobs such as collecting garbage, cleaning floors, sweeping and cleaning toilets," he said.

He said the Supreme Council also approved a proposal for the setting up of an Umno Training Centre which would conduct comprehensive courses to instill in members a greater awareness of the principles and objectives of the party's struggle.

"The centre will also stress on noble values to make Umno members more committed," he said.

He said the training centre's location would be determined soon while the curriculum would be based on the series of premier courses conducted by the party president.

The Umno Supreme Council also proposed that verses from the Quran and their interpretation pertaining to good habits in life be displayed on notice boards in public places.

Dr Mahathir said the Supreme Council also felt that many teachings from the al-Quran particularly that on constructive matters were not widely disseminated.

"Even though these things are repeatedly found in the al-Quran, many still appear not to know them. Hence we feel it is necessary to have signboards with the verses and interpretations so that Muslims in Malaysia will know about their religious teachings," the Prime Minister said. --

BERNAMA

RAZ AAM