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PARENTS BLAMED FOR SPREAD OF PUNK CULTURE AMONG YOUTHS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Othman today said parents should share the blame for the spread of punk culture among Malaysian youths.

He said many parents, including those in the corporate sector, gave unlimited freedom to their children as a result of which they indulged in unhealthy activities.

"The children should not be totally blamed for their involvement in negative activities, the parents should also share the blame for not disciplining and limiting their children's freedom since small," he told reporters after opening an exhibition on fasting and Hari Raya Puasa at the National Mosque.

Abdul Hamid was commenting on the unhappiness expressed by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday over the involvement of local youths in punk culture which he said advocated violence.

In a speech to university students, the Prime Minister chastised youths who blindly adopted the Western culture which has begun to take root in the this country especially in the federal capital.

Abdul Hamid said some wealthy people in the country were always too busy to provide guidance to their families, and had never emphasised on the importance religious education.

"Since the Muslim community in Malaysia is new to the corporate world and with their village and agriculture background, the influx of changes can greatly confuse them," he said.

In order to overcome the problem, the religious department is getting mosques, suraus and Parent-Teachers Associations to combat negative tendencies among youth.

Meanwhile, Umno Youth today called on the authorities to take preventive measures against the spread of the punk an skinhead culture in the country.

Its chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said in a statement that the movement viewed seriously the adopting of the Western culture by local youths, especially Malays.

He said although there were no legal provisions to detain the youths, efforts could be taken to prevent such activities just like the way police carried out spot checks in amusement centres previously. -- BERNAMA

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