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PM unhappy over spread of punk culture

Saiful Azhar Abdullah; Zubaidah Abu Bakar; Sharanjit Singh
SINTOK, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed his unhappiness over the spread of punk culture among Malaysian youths, saying it would not bring any benefit to the country.

Speaking to some 2,000 Universiti Utara Malaysia undergraduates during his visit to the campus, the Prime Minister said he could not understand why some youths were apeing such a dumb Western culture.

"We read reports about the punk culture in Malaysia, that for no reason, youths put glue on their hair so that they look like Red Indians.

"We don't need punk culture. It is stupid ... we see the whites (orang putih) do it, we ape them ... the white people do something stupid, we emulate them ... they drink liquor, we drink liquor ... they smoke drugs, we also smoke drugs."

The Prime Minister said one of the reasons why the people were vulnerable to the unhealthy culture was because they suffered from an inferiority complex which made them feel it was necessary to do what those in the West were doing.

"We must not look at them as a model. We can emulate what is good in their good culture but not copy everything.

"What's the benefit of the punk culture to the country?" asked the Prime Minister.

"They are very boastfful (referring to punk youths in Kuala Lumpur).... They want to beat people if people do something to them."

Utusan Malaysia, in its special report yesterday, said there were several groups of youths in Kuala Lumpur who aped the punk and skinhead culture.

Dr Mahathir also said the decadence of Western culture was one of the reasons why the Government had formulated the Look East Policy so that Malaysians could learn the discipline of the Koreans and Japanese in developing their countries.

The Prime Minister hoped the undergraduates would acquire such discipline for the wellbeing of the country.

"There is nothing in this world that we cannot achieve if we have discipline," he added.

Dr Mahathir also said Malaysians at all levels must strive to improve their management skills and capability in order for the country to achieve developed nation status by the year 2020.

He said although Malaysia had achieved far more than other nations, its current achievements had not reached maximum level.

Dr Mahathir said the country needed to improve the peoples' management skills as good management was the key to success.

He cited Genting Bhd chairman Tan Sri Lim Goh Tong as an example of a successful manager who had worked his way up from a labourer to become a millionaire.

"He came to Malaysia from China as a labourer and is now a millionaire because of his good management skills," he said.

Dr Mahathir also reminded the undergraduates of the importance of discipline in order to be successful in life.

He said they must remember that even if they had the management skills, they might not be successful if they lacked discipline.

Later, Dr Mahathir planted a hopiea odorata tree at the campus.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, Health Minister

Datuk Chua Jui Meng, Universiti Utara Malaysia vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Shamsuddin Kassim, Kubang Pasu district officer Datuk Abu Bakar Yaacob, State Exco members and Assemblymen.

Dr Mahathir then toured the campus before visiting Sriwani Holdings Berhad's Black Forest Golf and Country Resort in Bukit Kayu Hitam.

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