

24/02/1997

Police training will help youths fight social ills

K. Nagaratnam

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his Hari Raya Aidilfitri message highlighted the social ills affecting Malay youths, while a Cabinet Committee on Social Ills, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anuar Ibrahim, has been formed to find the root cause and take preventive measures to eradicate them.

As a senior citizen and a competent toast-master, I wish to share my experience to wipe out the social ills and make our youths, the future leaders, project a good image of Malaysia. As senior citizens, we qualify for the title QBE; it is not an academic qualification but it means "Qualified By Experience".

I have seen many demonstrations by the Royal Malaysian Police Dog Unit, where the dogs sniff out dadah on the command of their handlers. If we can train more dogs to sniff out dadah and Ecstasy pills, their valuable service will help the police to nab more people possessing dadah at airports, railway stations, bus terminals, nightspots and other places where dadah pushers and addicts gather. Nobody can fool the dogs as they perform their duty without fear or favour.

During the Emergency in this country, when the communists caused havoc under the leadership of Chin Peng, General Templer was appointed High Commissioner to fight and wipe out the communists from this country. He introduced compulsory national service, whereby all youths 18 years and above, had to serve for two years in the armed forces. Those of us who were employed in government service or private sector were made to volunteer for the armed forces duties in addition to our normal duties. I joined the auxiliary police force which is now known as police volunteer reserve; it was a blessing in disguise.

I am proud we have accomplished our mission to wipe out the communists and brought peace and prosperity to the country. Please remember this proverb: One generation plants the trees and another generation enjoys the shade.

I wish to highlight some of the excellent education we received during our police training:

- * Loyalty to King and country;
- * Discipline, parades, training in use of firearms;
- * Criminal Procedure Code;
- * Penal Code;
- * Traffic Ordinance;
- * Common Law; and,
- * Performing duties on crime prevention, police patrol and conducting raids.

During the first six months, our instructors would never allow us to be idle; they kept us very busy spinning like a top and said: "We adopt the 'You have to be cruel to be kind' policy." After one year, when we have mastered finished our training, they reminded us that "when the going gets tough, the tough gets going".

Malaysia is a peace loving country which has no ambition of invading any other country. Therefore, we should avoid military training and concentrate on having compulsory police training for two years for all males and females of 18 years and above.

An idle mind is the devil's workshop. Our youths become victims of social ills as they are pampered too much or are being given too much

freedom. They should be made aware of what is an offence and its punishment.

As members of the police, they will be duty-bound to fight social ills.

If this is implemented, we can be proud to have a disciplined Malaysian society to make Vision 2020 a success.