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## Reviving the spirit of filial piety among youth

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The spirit of filial piety must be revived among youth to encourage them to appreciate sacrifices made by their parents, said Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Loke Yuen Yow.

"Once such feelings are inculcated in youths, they will readily acknowledge what their parents have undergone," he said.

"It will also make youths feel indebted to their parents and be ever-willing to love and care for them during their old age, to repay them for their past deeds," he told reporters after launching a month-long "Love Your Parents" campaign organised by the Malaysian United Youth Movement at Federal Hotel here today.

The campaign was organised under the auspices of the Ministry's Rakan Budaya (Friends of Culture) programme together with the support of Malaysian Youth Council.

Also present was MYC's vice president Mustaffa Kamil Ayub and the movement's president Low Teh Hian.

Loke said an increasing number of Malaysian youths were reluctant to care for their aged parents simply because they were too pre-occupied with their work.

Youths, he said, were becoming too career-minded while parents are feeling more lonely than before.

"There has been a drastic change in values," he said. "More old people now feel unloved by their children. This is a disrespect for the love which they showered on their children when they were young."

He advised youths not to wait until they were 50 or 60 years old before realising the importance of being considerate to their aged parents as they could find themselves in a similar situation.

"Our youths could find themselves uncared by their own children if they are not willing to show filial piety to their aged parents," he said.

Loke said the family institution also needed to be strengthened into a close family unit to face the challenges of the next millenium.

The country's rapid industrialisation was pulling the family unit apart, he said.

Without a close family unit, he said it would be impossible to produce a benevolent and caring society within a properous nation.

"Although the situation has not reached a serious stage, the Ministry is targetting this campaign directly at youths," he said, adding that more positive action would be taken to revive such values through similar programmes organised by GBBM, the Ministry and other voluntary organisations.

On whether the Ministry would introduce legislation to compel youths to look after their aged parents, Loke said that would defeat the Ministry's objective of inculcating high moral values among youths.

Using force, he said, would not be as effective as actions done sincerely, and they should be encouraged to care and share whatever they have with their aged parents. "This is the start of the caring and sharing society concept as advocated by our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said.

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