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Mahathir-Malays

THE MALAYS SHOULD NOT BE ASHAMED TO ADMIT THEIR WEAKNESS, SAYS PM

SINTOK, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Malays should be prepared to admit their weaknesses and shortcomings and should be determined to seek ways to overcome them.

He said that the Malay community appeared to be facing more social problems than the other races in the country although the environment was the same for all the races in the country.

Many of them were involved in unhealthy activities like corruption, loafing, incest and child abuse, he said at the breaking of the fast with staff and students of Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) at its mosque here.

Dr Mahathir said that a recent study revealed that 67 per cent of criminal cases involved the Malays.

"Development may have brought with it some negative elements. Previously, there were not many night clubs and men and women did not mingle so freely.

"We can always blame the situation for what is happening. But the question for which we could not find an answer is why so many Muslims are involved," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was amazed that the percentage of Malays involved in such unhealthy activities were extremely high.

The study revealed that over 50 per cent of the Malays were affected by negative elements while those affected by positive influence were less than 50 per cent.

"Ponder over the situation...why is that we cannot curb ourselves from such negative elements," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the Malays should not be ashamed to admit their weaknesses and shortcomings because for as long as they fail to do so, they could not find the solutions to the social problems they were facing and attain progress.

He said that efforts to overcome social problems in the community should be the responsibility of everyone as there should be balanced progress in all aspects.

The Prime Minister also advised the students to concentrate on their studies and to stay away from unhealthy activities for their own good. --

BERNAMA

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