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Disastrous to instil negative attitudes

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Negative attitudes towards certain leaders instilled in children by parents will lead to the birth of an aggressive generation, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail said today.

The inculcation of such attitudes could influence the next generation who would in the end render null the achievements of the present leadership.

Zaleha said this would result in an immoral, violent and indisciplined generation.

She said this after launching the National Family Day and International Family Day celebrations at the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia today.

Zaleha launched a book on family tips produced by the National Population and Family Development Board and presented prizes to winners of the International Poster Contest 1998 held in New York recently. The contest was organised by the United Nations Population Fund.

Mohd Shafiq A. Jalal of Sekolah Kebangsaan Taming Jaya, Sri Kembangan, won the first prize in the nine to 12 age category. Ooi Chun Gee and Syarifah Radziah Syed Khairuddin won the second prize in the 16-18 and 19 and above age categories respectively.

Zaleha said parents should instil in their children positive attitudes.

"I know there are certain parties using the Internet to express their disagreement towards my statements regarding this matter. But I don't care since what I am doing is for the benefit of the society."

Recently, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that there were parents and teachers who were poisoning the minds of children and pupils to hate the Government.

Earlier in her speech, Zaleha said with the country developing rapidly, the demands of individuals and society would increase.

She said inability in fulfilling these needs would result in economical, social and psychological pressure on the family.

"Parents unable to cope with the pressure cannot function effectively in nurturing and teaching their children or even in handling family crisis."

Research has found that this inability was the main reason for the increase of social ills such as domestic violence and dadah abuse.

Zaleha said the National Population and Family Development Board through the National Social Action Plan had been carrying out programmes focusing on children, youth and parents in the formation of positive attitudes in family institutions.

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