

26 NOV 1998

Zaleha-Parents

PARENTS CHIDED FOR INSTILLING HATRED IN CHILDREN

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail today took to task parents who instil negative attitudes in their children, saying this would be detrimental to all parties.

All the successes and progress achieved by the country through the present leaders would go to waste if the generation succeeding them had a tendency to resort to violence, was indisciplined and of low morals, she said.

She urged parents to stress moral education for their children so that they would grow up as responsible and useful citizens.

"This is essential to ensure the principle of racial harmony in the country which emphasises mutual respect will be preserved forever," she told reporters after launching the 1998 National and International Family Day here.

Zaleha was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement recently that some parents and teachers were instilling in children hatred for the country's leaders.

Dr Mahathir said that in their hate campaign some parents went to the extent of showing his photograph to children and telling them that a person like him should be beheaded.

Zaleha said parents resorting to such irresponsible acts would stand to lose because their children would be aggressive, insolent and disrespectful towards old people when they became adults.

Earlier, she said the family institution was facing a serious challenge because of social problems caused by the economic downturn.

The ministry's studies showed that failure to cope with the challenges and stress of life had led to family breakups, domestic violence, divorce, dadah addiction, promiscuity, prostitution and baby abandonment.

Zaleha also presented prizes to Malaysians who emerged winners at an international-level Family Day drawing competition held in New York recently.

Mohd Shafiq Abdul Jalal of Sekolah Kebangsaan Taming Jaya, Seri Kembangan, Selangor, was first in the 9-12 age-group, while Ooi Chun Gee of Sekolah Kebangsaan St Michael, Kedah, was second in the 16-18 years category.

-- BERNAMA

AKT YBY