

21/12/1998

Youths urged to show love for country

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Youths were today urged to show undivided love for the country and one way of doing this is to support the Government and its leaders.

In making the call, Belia 4B president Datuk Mohd Ali Rustam said they must also not detach themselves from happenings in the country but take an active part in them as well.

Speaking at the launching of a patriotic campaign at the International Youth Centre in Bandar Tun Razak, Mohd Ali said in any association or movement, the strength depended on them receiving full support from members.

"The same goes for our country. If we are divided in our support for the leaders, Malaysia will not be powerful and effective in overcoming attempts to re-colonise it."

Mohd Ali, who is also Transport Deputy Minister, said youths should learn from the history of the country where foreign powers managed to colonise it not only because they were powerful but due to the action of locals who provided assistance.

"We must reject foreign intervention in our internal affairs as well as the action of some who allow themselves to be used as tools of foreigners."

He said youths should emulate the patriotism of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, citing as an example Dr Mahathir's decision to undergo heart surgery by local surgeons in the country.

The year-long patriotic campaign, organised by the Belia 4B movement and the Malaysia Youth Council, will be expanded to cover all States. Belia 4B has 3,065 branches with over 300,000 members while MYC has 30 affiliates.

Members can participate by sending postcards pledging their support for the Government to both movements for delivery to Dr Mahathir.

Later, Mohd Ali handed over 2,000 of such postcards mailed by members and affiliates to the Prime Minister's political secretary Datuk Mohd Aziz Shamsuddin.

Mohd Ali also handed to Mohd Aziz a giant birthday card for Dr Mahathir who turns 73 today.

(END)