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Aid recovery efforts, youth leaders urged

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged youth leaders to assist the Government in its efforts to restore the economy and to maintain solidarity and harmony.

He also told them to protect the country's system of democracy and not be influenced by the cultures of certain countries.

Dr Mahathir said this during a briefing on the current economic and political situation to leaders of youth associations at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The briefing was followed by a short question-and-answer session.

Among those present were representatives of Majlis Belia Malaysia, Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia, Gerakan Belia 4B, Majlis Belia Felda, Persatuan Pengakap Malaysia and Young Malaysia Movement.

Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who was also present, said that the Prime Minister explained the steps taken by the Government towards economic recovery.

Muhyiddin said that there were about 100 representatives from 20 youth movements at the briefing.

Among issues Dr Mahathir discussed included the Government's stand on the proposed Hudud laws.

Muhyiddin said that the meeting was an important one as this was the first time Dr Mahathir was meeting with youth movement leaders and explaining to them, first-hand, current issues facing the country.

"Normally they hear it from a third party. But this time, they heard it from the Prime Minister himself and I believe it was a successful meeting."

He added that the Prime Minister also called for a closer working relationship between youth movements and the Government.

Muhyiddin also said that Dr Mahathir would launch the Youth Day celebrations on Saturday.

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