

16/04/1999

Catering to emerging needs of families

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - New strategies must be formulated to cater to the emerging needs of families, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said tonight.

He said families have to equip themselves with knowledge and skills in order to cope with the challenges of change and globalisation.

"Methodologies must be developed and skilled personnel trained to provide education on family development, parenting and family counselling. More research should be conducted on family dynamics, their situation and the impact of various policies on families.

"There must be a more comprehensive and holistic perspective of development - one that encompasses economic, societal and family issues," he said at the launch of the four-day International Pure Love and True Family Conference at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The conference is organised by the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development and the Women's Federation for World Peace. Also present were Minister of National Unity and Social Development Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail, WFWP patron Datuk Paduka Dr Saleha Mohd Ali and WFWP International founder Dr Hak Ja Han.

Najib opened the conference on behalf of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Hak presented Dr Mahathir a plaque of appreciation for his support of the conference.

Najib said at every stage of a country's development, the family unit would undergo a process of erosion.

"This seems to be the trend. Our emphasis on the development of the family should not be limited to individual family ties.

"In Malaysia, we live in a larger society that is also regarded as family."

He said although the inter-community relationship was not as strong as that between family members, its importance in ensuring the peace and stability of the country could not be underestimated.

"Therefore, it is vital that we foster a closer and more harmonious relationship within the context of the larger family which is the Malaysian multi-ethnic society.

"Increasingly, we must learn to see the world as our home and to regard humankind as one family. If globalisation is to lead to the creation of a borderless world, it must be accompanied by an expanding regard for the values of sacrificial love and brotherly concern and fidelity between nations."

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