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Mahathir-Culture

DEFEND CULTURAL VALUES, DR M TELLS MALAYS

DUNGUN, July 29 (Bernama) - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight called on Malays in the country to defend their cultural values, saying it can help lift the community's social position to world standard.

The prime minister said the Malay culture was nurtured since hundreds of years ago and if the values were destroyed then the Malays as a race too would be wiped off.

Accusing certain people of attempting to destroy the Malay race, he said they were obviously self-centered and not far-sighted.

"Culture, including that concerning silat, was inherited and must be nurtured as it has shown who we are," he said when speaking at the Terengganu-level Warriors Day Gathering at the Padang Astaka Dungun.

Present were the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and state Barisan Nasional leaders.

More than 10,000 people including 5,000 silat exponents from throughout the state attended the function.

Dr Mahathir said if culture was destroyed, "we will not know of any race because the identity of the race is not based on their skin, place or language but on the values they uphold".

The prime minister also said that certain quarters were trying to abolish cultural forms of entertainment in the country, an act that was a clear loss to the civilization of the race.

In his speech, the prime minister also said the government had managed the country's finance intelligently and was capable of dealing with domestic problems on its own.

He dismissed allegations by some people that the government was wasting the country's wealth and not managing the money properly.

"If it's true that we are wasting money, we will not have been able to supply imported products at current prices and the country will probably have become poor," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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