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### Integrated programmes needed to tackle social ills

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The steady rise in social ills and instability of the family institution calls for more integrated programmes, especially in a globalised and industrialised world.

Research shows that many youths today are not ready for marriage or parenting, are burdened by their careers and family responsibilities and not ready to face globalisation.

In view of this, the Women, Family and Welfare for the People of Malaysia has organised an International Pure Love and True Family Conference.

About 1,000 participants are expected at the conference which aims to:

- \* ignite and spread the spirit of pure love and true family values from Malaysia to other Asia Pacific countries;
- \* create good opportunity of personal exposure and experience for foreign delegates which will help build a good image of social integrity, racial harmony and economic stability; and
- \* educate participants to handle social ills in our society through the exchange of knowledge and experiences, thus identifying approaches to heal social ills.

National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail said today the campaign, started in 1997, had been carried out via conferences.

"To date 16 conferences have been held all over Malaysia and three student conferences since 1998," she told a Press conference.

"We feel it is timely to organise an international conference where ideas can be shared and exchanged among participants."

The conference, to be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, is tentatively set for April 15.

The four-day conference will feature speakers from Britain, the US, Africa, Japan, Korea and Malaysia.

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