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Move to get more family counsellors

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - More family counsellors will be recruited and trained to educate newly-wed couples on good parenting skills.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said the National Development and Family Board would train counsellors with the help of non-governmental organisations, so that its family-oriented programmes would be carried out effectively.

She was speaking at a Press conference after attending the board's national and international family day here today which was launched by Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, who is the wife of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Shahrizat said the Government also placed a lot of time on helping parents and youths realise the importance of creating a united and loving environment in the household.

She stressed that with Malaysia having about 7.8 million youths who are under 15 years, a lot of positive values should be taught to these youths as they represent the future generation of the Malaysian workforce and families.

Meanwhile, the board's director-general Fatimah Saad said five different modules would be available for families.

"It includes parenting of small children, parenting of adolescents, preparation for marriage, marriage enrichment and fatherhood."

Fatimah added that the module introduced for newly married couples was called the "love boat" module and the fatherhood one was called "shower of love".

"These modules provide indepth knowledge about the finer skills on marriage and fatherhood," she said.

Dr Siti Hasmah, in her speech, said parents should always communicate and spend time with their children and teach them good values.

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