

19/07/2000

Turning the tables on Opposition man

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad turned the tables on an Opposition MP who tried to link indiscipline among schoolchildren, the Grik arms heists and the jailing of the former Deputy Prime Minister to erosion of human values in the country.

The Prime Minister told Wan Nik Wan Yusoff (Pas-Bachok) that such incidents occurred when children and the people were taught things contrary to religion and culture.

"All these happened because of the things done by the Opposition...they taught the people to hate, cursing without reason. There are teachers in school instigating pupils to question their parents, not to respect parents.

"When the young no longer have any respect for their parents, teachers, it can lead to cases like pupils sending bullets to teachers and abandoning babies and so on," he said.

Dr Mahathir said when the young were taught about hatred even when they were still in kindergarten, then when the feeling could no longer be contained, incidents such as what had taken place in Sauk happened.

The Prime Minister also chided Pas for practising double standards and championing things that it sensed could be turned into an issue.

"For example, the party is not that fond of somebody but when it sees that the action taken by the Government against the person can be exploited, suddenly he is loved so much by the party to the extent that they are willing to demonstrate for him."

(END)