

Culture of giving alms must be nurtured, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR Sat — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the culture of giving alms and helping the less fortunate must be nurtured among the younger generation

He said public donations and contributions could help resolve some of the problems affecting society besides creating a link between donors and recipients

Giving alms and doing charitable activities will create a compassionate generation

This will lead to a caring society he said at a charity dinner and launching of a fund for Hospital Kuala Lumpur at Crown Princess Hotel

The fund was created by students from the Faculty of Modern Language and Communication of Universiti Putra Malaysia

Dr Mahathir said public contributions were needed as the Government would not be able to provide assistance to everyone and help overcome their problems

In Malaysia he said the public like traders and businessmen often made charitable contributions as they were indebted to society

So it is logical that they donate and help the less fortunate although they pay taxes It is impossible for the Government to take care of all problems using the revenue from taxes

The Prime Minister said if traders and businessmen did not want to donate for charity because they already paid tax their link would only be with the Government and not society

Dr Mahathir said newspapers often carried stories requesting donations for matters like heart operations Our society has never failed to help these cases

Many donate including those who are not rich he said adding that Malaysians also donated to help people of foreign countries which experienced calamities

Praising the students for setting up the fund Dr Mahathir said such activities would help inculcate good values and the desire in them to help the unfortunate

But I must remind you that administering a fund is a heavy responsibility Administrators of funds often become the victims of