

Rape and murder case saddens PM

PETALING JAYA: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday led other Malaysians in condemning the brutal rape and murder of 16-year-old Nurul Hanis Kamil.

The Prime Minister said he was unhappy and saddened over the many such cases these days.

"We find that society is too liberal. In the past, we were controlled by our parents unlike present times," he told reporters at the Science Convention 2001 at the Palace of the Golden Horses at Seri Kemangan here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said nowadays,

school children were too free.

"Sometimes, parents and teachers are not aware about what the schoolchildren are up to," he said.

Nurul Hanis, a Form Four student, was found dead after being raped, sodomised and strangled about 100m from her home in Serkam Darat, Merlimau.

Earlier, during a dialogue, the Prime Minister said that he was disheartened that many Malay schoolchildren were involved in social ills.

He said more emphasis should be given to teaching Islamic values.

Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation vice-chairman Datuk Lee Lam Thye described the incident as a tragedy.

He urged crime prevention clubs in schools to play a bigger role in inculcating a safety culture among students.

National Union of the Teaching Profession secretary-general Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam called for steps to be taken to teach students self-protection.

"Crime prevention committees in schools should not let students forget about this incident," he said.