

# 'Don't hide problems'

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**KOTA BARU, Fri: Everyone should find out the causes and immediately overcome problems affecting youths who have been led to commit crime and subscribe to anti-religion philosophy.**

"All parties, especially parents and teachers ... it's very sad that today there are so many incidents involving teenage students, unheard of before," said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said there must be reasons why the youths could be easily influenced and their resilience undermined to lead them to be

involved in anti-religious activities.

"We must ask ourselves where we went wrong and let's not hide them. The guilty party will have to be identified so that we can put things right ... let's not, due to other interests, cover up things that are wrong," he said.

He said as a result of attempts to cover up things, incidents like activities rejecting religion by the youths would become widespread and more would copy them.

"What will happen to our society in future which will comprise those lacking in knowledge, failing to uphold religious teachings that they are prepared to do all sorts of

things which are contrary to religion," he said.

"... not among the Chinese or Indians but the Malays ... the Indians, the Chinese are also involved but the number (of cases involving) the Malays is high.

"Today we read about a group of Malays who have departed from Islamic teachings, practising Satanism, involved in what is called Black Metal culture," he said when launching an IT literacy programme at SMK Kubang Kerian 2.

Elaborating on such activities before

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## It's sad majority of them from religious schools, says PM

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some 3,000 people, Mahathir said: "The teenage members of the group were involved in cult activities and influenced through messages in the lyrics of songs."

Yesterday, the cabinet ordered the authorities to question several bands believed to be influencing the

group to preach anti-God messages to youths through their music.

The decision came after reports that the cult group was roping in youths, mainly teenage students, to subscribe to their anti-establishment and anti-religion philosophy.

"They have reached a stage where they, our Malay youths ... students ...

are prepared to step on the Quran, tear the Quran and step on the Bible," he said.

Mahathir said: "Let's ask ourselves why this has happened when such a thing never happened before.

"What makes it more sad is that the majority of these students are from religious schools.

"Is it that our religion calls on us to be involved in

such activities ... surely not. There must be something which leads them to be prepared to reject the religion and be involved in activities based on anti-religion and anti-establishment philosophies."

As such, the prime minister said that parents have a duty to ensure that their children become responsible citizens. - Bernama