

PM: Instil positive values in children

SUN - 2 SEP 2001

'Ensure that the young become responsible citizens'

By **Hazatul Syima**

PETALING JAYA, Sat: Parents must instil positive values in their children from young to ensure they become responsible citizens.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said teachers should then continue the work done by parents to ensure that the children are capable of contributing to their family, race, religion and country.

"Therefore, the Say Yes For Children campaign should be accepted and taken seriously by adults as children are our heirs," he said in his speech at the launching of the campaign here today.

The campaign, a local interpretation of the Global Movement for Children campaign which began in March this year, is aimed at involving all parties including parents, caregivers, religious groups, non-profit organisations and schools, as well as the people, who can call the hotline at 1800-88-3040.

The local campaign lists 10 imperative actions as its objectives, namely, leave no child out, put children first, care for and educate every child, fight HIV/AIDS, stop harming and exploiting children, listen to them, protect them from war/violent conflicts, protect the earth for children and fight poverty by investing in them.

Mahathir advised parents to chastise the children when they transgress and to appreciate their good deeds so that the children will know they are loved.

He expressed sadness at the cases of child abuse that occur in the country and implored the communi-

ty at large to report such cases even if it involves their neighbours or people they know.

"Children depend on adults to take care and protect them. So, don't abuse

the children, love them instead," he said during the launch attended by more than 5,000 people, mostly children, at the Sunway Lagoon Convention Centre.

After the launch, the

prime minister added his thumbprint to the largest children's thumbprint message banner which was later certified and accepted into the *Malaysia Book of Records*.