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Dr M expresses sorrow over rape, murder of girl, 16

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed sorrow over the rape and murder of 16-year old Nurul Hanis Kamil in Merlimau, Malacca, on Tuesday.

The Prime Minister said he was also saddened over the increasing number of rape and murder cases.

He said this was perhaps the result of declining morals among the society, particularly the young.

"Compared to the past, society now enjoys too much freedom. I don't want to say this but when I was young, our parents exercised some controls over us.

"But nowadays, parents and teachers sometimes are not aware of things done by their children and students," he said after a dialogue with participants of Science Convention 2001 at the Palace of the Golden Horses.

Dr Mahathir said morals nowadays had declined due to the influence of negative elements, adding it was not as good as before.

On another matter, the Prime Minister said the Sultan of Kelantan's refusal to sign the amendments to the State Constitution which the State Assembly had passed did not indicate that he had sided with a political party opposed to the move, as claimed by some quarters.

"The Sultan of Kedah and Johor also did not sign... perhaps there are other reasons and not because he is taking sides. Maybe the Sultan of Kelantan feels there are other motives behind the amendments, unlike when we (Federal Government) amended the Constitution. We did it to prevent unlawful actions being committed by the Sultans but this (the Kelantan amendment) was done because the State Government was angry over certain matters."

During the dialogue, Dr Mahathir was asked why 90 per cent of dadah addicts were Malays and whether the army should be roped in to combat the menace.

Dr Mahathir said if children were taught to despise dadah from young, chances are they would stay away from it.

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