

04/09/2001

Youth problems 'under control'

Sulok Tawie

KUCHING, Mon. - The number of youths involved in criminal cases and social problems is low compared with other countries in the region, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said.

He said only eight per cent of Malaysian youths were involved in such cases compared with 42 per cent in Japan, 21.8 per cent in Indonesia and 14.4 per cent in China.

He said the older generation should stop pointing the finger at youths every time a crime was committed or a social problem cropped up.

Speaking at a dialogue with youth and sports leaders here last night, he said the older generation should have an open attitude in dealing with youths and not regard them as rivals to challenge.

On sports and youth development in Sarawak, Hishammuddin said he had submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Finance Minister, to increase allocations for the State.

He said the Ministry had agreed to build a Rakan Muda centre in Sarawak under the Eighth Malaysia Plan but the State Government had to look for a site.

Hishammuddin said he would support youth and sports leaders who showed their commitment, dedication and willingness to sacrifice for the country.

"Give me the best, be committed and be disciplined and I am prepared to go out of the way to help you," he said.