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Mahathir-Teachers

DR M: TEACHERS MUST HELP PARENTS IMBUE NOBLE CHARACTER IN CHILDREN

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Teachers, besides imparting knowledge to students, should play a role in instilling noble moral values to them, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Since many mothers were working, their children must be guided and educated by teachers, he said.

"All teachers must be involved in the moulding of noble character in children. They should not let teaching of moral education in the hands of religious teachers or moral education teachers," he told a media conference after launching the Women's Day 2002 at Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

Dr Mahathir said: "Unfortunately, we find some teachers not taking their responsibilities seriously and in fact, neglected their responsibilities.

"It can be said that they betrayed the government's intention of moulding children with noble qualities," he said.

He said working mothers should also use their free time to nurture good moral values to their children.

Dr Mahathir said the problem of teachers' shortage to perform this responsibility did not arise because the government had increased teachers in tandem with the growing student population.

In fact, the teaching profession was the biggest in the country as one-third of government employees consists of teachers, he said.

He also want teachers to revive the teacher-student ties as was practised previously to ensure teachers could discharge their responsibilities more effectively.

Earlier, in his speech, Dr Mahathir said efforts must be stepped up to create happy families to avoid social problems in society to pave the way for a bright future to the country.

He said all groups, including women-based non-governmental organisations (NGOs) should focus attention to overcome this growing problem when the parents were out at work and leaving the children without proper guidance at home.

The country was in need of women workforce to proceed with the nation-building agenda but they also should play a role in educating their children, he said.

"If parents are not at home, children will be neglected and most probably they will not be properly guided and educated and this will lead them to be involved in crime and drugs.

"We need to find ways to overcome this problem and by reverting to the old days where women stayed at home to take care of the children will also not offer a solution to the problem as it would create shortage of manpower in the country," he said.

This problem had caused a dilemma to the government and till todate, the government had not found the right answer to tackle the problem, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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