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Mahathir-Families

BROKEN HOMES HAVE HARMFUL EFFECT ON THE CHILDREN, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed concern that many Malay parents nowadays do not have the right values and do not feel responsible for the upbringing of their children.

He said that broken homes or unhappy families due to divorce of the parents were more common among the Malays.

"Islam permits marrying two, three or four but if you cannot be fair to your wives, then marry one only," Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said in his policy at the Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

The prime minister said he believed that many of those with more than one wife cannot be fair to their wives.

"Some divorce and some don't take care of the lot of their wives who are not divorced, who bear the strains of emotions because they do not get the proper treatment as wives," he said.

He said that broken families or unhappy families cannot give a good model for the children and cannot bring up the children well.

"It is impossible for the father to give time and to attend to all the children from all the wives, especially the one who is not the favourite," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that even though there was no study made of such broken families and the effect on their children, he knew that with all communities and followers of other religions, broken homes usually have a harmful effect on the children.

He said that if parents do not have a good culture and good values, they cannot bring up their children with the right kind of values.

Even though there were many Malay parents who were good and responsible, he said, there was a minority, which is quite big, which was not good by comparison to other communities.

"While the parents of other communities control and oversee their children so that they study at home and in school, Malay parents do not do so seriously.

"Certainly, other good values are not instilled effectively," he said.

Other than the parents, he said, the influence on children was wielded by the teachers.

The prime minister said that in view of the fact that 20 per cent of the national budget was allocated to education and more than 300,000 or 30 per cent plus of the one million government employees were teachers in schools and other educational institutions, by right all children should get good education including moral education.

"Truly, those who fail in this task, those who instead teach how to make enemies and hate other Malays and Muslims, those who do not sow the true values of Islam, values that are all honourable, these people are the betrayers of the religion and the Malays," he said.

The prime minister said that he was convinced that if parents show good examples and the teachers carry out their responsibilities sincerely, most of the social ills among the Malays could be prevented.

He said that it could not be denied that there were other factors that contribute to the damaged moral of the Malays.

"Violence and immorality as shown in the pictures on the Internet and television contribute towards the moral collapse. But this does not explain

why more Malays are involved in social ills," he said.

"In this matter, we have to be honest and speak the truth.

"Only when we know the real cause can we remedy the ills," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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