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Mahathir-Family

DR MAHATHIR WANTS FAMILY VALUES TO BE NURTURED

KUALA LUMPUR, July 31 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the family institution must be preserved and good family values should be nurtured again as they can help in reducing various social ills.

The Prime Minister said although Malaysia was heading towards becoming a developed nation, it did not mean that good value system involving the family institution and marriage should be sacrificed.

He said when a nation achieved progress, the first to become victim would be the family as usually the husband and wife would be working and thus would not have enough time to spend with their children.

"This results in the family relationship being affected and the children will not receive enough guidance," Dr Mahathir said when launching a campaign to give priority to the family organised by the Women and Family Development Ministry, here.

He said children who did not get enough love and grew up in such a situation would suffer a decadence as they would not understand the meaning of love and discipline.

"That is why there is so much social problems (occurring such as) truancy, violence in schools, involvement in drug abuse and even crimes," he said.

Dr Mahathir said parents must find ways to make time and spend quality time with their children.

He said the campaign must touch on the problems faced in going through life in the city.

"In the kampungs, there is not much social problems. When rural dwellers migrate to towns, it's rather difficult to have a normal family life," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the concept of extended family which involved other relatives should also be given attention as they formed the framework for society.

Also present at the launching of the campaign were the Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and wife, Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, and several cabinet ministers as well as Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman.

Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil also escorted Dr Mahathir and other guests on a brief tour of the ministry which was created 19 months ago.

The campaign, which aims to produce a strong and harmonious family, is part of the 2002 National Family Day celebrations and gives emphasis on a comprehensive approach including focusing on psycho-social, spiritual and health aspects.

-- BERNAMA

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