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PM urges Malaysians to be less dependent on getting aid from others

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Malaysians must strive to be less dependent on receiving assistance from others, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said with hard work and determination, everyone was capable of improving their life.

"We want Malaysians to be a little too proud when it comes to receiving aid. Whenever possible, we should not accept assistance but work harder to improve our life," he said at an aid presentation ceremony to orphans at Tabung Haji headquarters.

The event, which saw 255 orphans from various races receiving donations ranging from RM150 to RM250 each, was organised by the Federal Territory Muslim Orphans Welfare Association.

The donations were presented to the orphans by Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

The Prime Minister said if people were too dependent on others for everything, there was a danger of them lacking the drive to strive for the betterment of their life.

To the unfortunate like orphans, he said they should not only be grateful for the assistance given but to show their appreciation by studying harder.

They should strive towards acquiring knowledge that would make them successful.

"When one is successful, he can then extend help to other needy people."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was unique because despite being multi-racial, the people were not reluctant to provide assistance regardless of the race of the recipients.

"For example, this association is founded for the benefits of Muslim orphans but it receives donations from non-Muslims as well.

"Therefore, I think it is apt that the association extends assistance to non-Muslim orphans," said Dr Mahathir.

He added that such a practice augured well for unity and race relations, especially since it involved young children.

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