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`Make fatherhood courses compulsory'

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PENANG, Sat. - The National Population and Family Development Board has proposed that fatherhood courses be made compulsory.

Board chairman Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail said a proposal would be submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

A recent survey by the board showed that women far outnumbered men at courses related to parenthood.

"It seems to be the norm among our men that the women should know more about family values than them," she said.

Even fatherhood courses, she said, were usually attended by more women than men.

"If we make it compulsory for men to participate, then courses on strengthening marriage such as the Bahtera Kasih programme will be a major success," she said after launching the "Importance of Family" carnival at the Penang International Sports Arena in Relau today.

Present were Penang Culture, Arts, Tourism and Women's Development Committee chairman Datuk Kee Phaik Cheen, Penang Island Municipal Councillor Wong Mun Hoe, carnival organising committee co-chairman Datuk Hamid Araby Md Salleh and Datin Jamilah Mohd Zain, the wife of Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya.

Proceeds from the carnival will be given to the Single Mother Children's Education Fund, Balik Pulau Haemodialysis Centre's fund and SJK (T) Subramaniye Barathee building fund.