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Budget-Youth/BM

RAKAN MUJDA PROGRAMME TO BE ENHANCED

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- The 'Rakan Muda' programme will be enhanced with a new approach to increase its effectiveness and participation of youths, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

A sum of RM12.3 million has been allocated for the programme next year, said the prime minister.

"We are concerned with the worsening social ills among youths," he said when tabling the 2003 Budget in Parliament.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the finance minister, said the youth entrepreneur development programme would be stepped-up to increase the participation of youths in business to create a youth industrial and trading community.

"The computer entrepreneur programme will be implemented to produce 100 small-scale emntrepreneurs in the computer business next year. For this purpose an allocation of RM500,000 is provided," he said.

He added that under the 'Tabung Ekonomi Belia', loan facilities amounting to RM50,000 per person would also be extended, benefiting an estimated 20,000 youths.

Dr Mahathir said the National Social Service Programme would be continued, involving about 20,000 school leavers who are awaiting their SPM results.

"This programme is specially formulated to create a generation of multi-skilled and patriotic youths besides occupying their free time with beneficial activities," he said.

A sum of RM11 million is allocated for this purpose, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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