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Mahathir-Incest

PRACTISE RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS TO AVOID INCEST- DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 1 (Bernama) -- Incest will have no place in society if children are given religious instructions and parents on their part practise their faith, the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said today.

"This is a problme over morals, this is not a question of imposing stiff or light punishment but a problem of morals...if we teach our children right from the beginning what is good and what is evil surely they will follow what is right."

"Then there will be no incest..... particularly among Muslims this should not happen as they are holding firmly to their religious teachings," he said.

The Prime Minister said parents or guardians should impart sound religious teachings to their children so that they could evaluate good from evil and not fall prey to this menace.

"If religious teachers do not impart political teachings in schools then I am convinced we can counter this problem," he said during a dialogue after addressing the Workers Day 2002 Gathering at the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan) here.

Dr Mahathir said incest had nothing to do with the wealth or poverty of a family.

"We find that in Malaysia the poor are involved in incest but in other countries it is the rich who are involved, hence there is no link to wealth or poverty but only knowledge and religious faith that can prevent this happening," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister said he had proposed that sex education be included in the school curriculum but there were groups which opposed as they viewed this from only one angle.

"...but this actually is closely linked to our morals...if our morals are not good, then there will be these activities such as homosexuality and incest. We are very much ashamed as this is happening largely among Muslims," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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