

PM: Vital to  
*STAR* - 3 AUG 2003  
respect  
family  
institution

**PORT DICKSON:** Malaysians have been urged to respect and preserve the family institution to maintain a happy and prosperous society.

In making the call, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysians who had adopted Eastern culture should respect and stress the importance of family institution.

"In some countries, family institutions no longer have any meaning. In fact there are those who think that marriage is no longer necessary or relevant.

"These people prefer to be live-in lovers as and when they like and do not even know who is the biological father of their children.

"This situation will ultimately destroy society. For us, we should respect and hold on to our Eastern values pertaining to marriage and the family institution," he said in his speech during the Family Day of the Prime Minister's Office's Welfare and Sports Body in Guoman Resort here yesterday.

Also present were his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and some 500 staff.

He said Malaysians must foster closer rapport and understanding among family members of their colleagues as they were working under one roof.

Dr Mahathir said this would ensure they would receive help when tragedy occurred.