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Mahathir-Crimes

DR MAHATHIR LAMENTS BREAKDOWN IN MORAL VALUES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the increase in crime rate not only in Malaysia but also worldwide may be due to a breakdown in moral values.

The prime minister said parents nowadays were not able to control their children or teach them good values, and this contributed to their offspring's involvement in criminal offences.

Speaking at a media conference at the end of the second day of the 54th Umno general assembly here, the party president said that the problem was compounded by the easy access to pornographic material and violent movies.

"Even books written by famous authors must have some description of sex and violence. I think they are bankrupt of ideas," he said in response to a question on the matter.

He said novels used to be educational and enjoyable but nowadays, it seemed that they could not run away from depictions of sex and violent actions.

He said millions of smut videos were distributed worldwide and could even be downloaded from the Internet.

Dr Mahathir also mentioned the violent "Terminator" movies in which killing people was normal.

He said the rise in crime rate and other related matters might be dealt with during the debate on religion tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir was also asked how Umno would tackle the misuse of Islam by political parties in the next general election.

"We must clear the confusion caused by PAS through its campaign," he said, citing the example that PAS leaders were even prepared to say that God used obscenities and was a gangster.

He also said that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, during his visit to Malaysia last week, had told him that Erdogan's party did not use the word Islam for fear that Islam would be blamed if they party made a mistake.

-- BERNAMA

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