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Mahathir-Freedom

DR MAHATHIR SUGGESTS LIMIT TO SOME OF THE FREEDOM IN THE MEDIA

KUALA LUMPUR, July 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that there should be some limit to freedoms that would damage the moral value of the society.

He said the new lifestyle which had corrupted the minds of Malaysians, such as the exposure to pornographic materials, had, for example, influenced the youngsters to commit sexual crimes.

"The society doesn't have to live with this thing. I still believe that we need to limit the kind of freedom that is very damaging to moral values," he told a news conference after launching 'Gerakan Daya Wawasan', a rural development programme, here.

He was asked to comment on news reports about the increase in the crime rate involving young people in today's society.

Dr Mahathir said such crimes did not happen that much in the past as the society then was sombre and humble.

"I'm quite sure that a young man looking at pornographic films becomes extremely excited and he doesn't care anymore what he's doing. He doesn't think, he sees a little child, he rapes the child," he said.

The prime minister said that when the government tried to impose censorship, some parties protested, claiming that it was against the freedom of the press.

"When we tried to censor TV, the people say don't censor, it's not good... freedom of the press, freedom of this and that. Previously we didn't have this," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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