

02 AUG 2003

Mahathir-Family

FORGE CLOSER TIES WITH ONE ANOTHER, M'SIAN FAMILIES TOLD

PORT DICKSON, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised Malaysian families to forge closer ties with each other.

He said this should be the norm of every member of a Malaysian family.

"Our society needs to have closer inter-family ties, especially when we are involved in an activity together like working in the same place.

"We should not talk only when we are in the office, instead we should forge closer family ties with other families.

"By doing so, when something happens, we will not be alone, but instead many will come forward to help. That's our society," he said when launching the Family Day of the Prime Minister's Department's Welfare and Sports Body.

More than 500 people took part in the events organised at Gouman Hotel, near here, tonight.

Dr Mahathir's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, was also present.

"By having close relations with one another, when a staff faces a problem or an emergency, like he falls sick or dies, many will come forward voluntarily to help," he said.

Dr Mahathir also urged every family member to regard the family institution as an important unit for Malaysians to live happily in this country.

He said certain groups in some countries considered family institution and marriage as unnecessary.

"They cohabit as they like and they do not know where they come from and do not know who their parents are," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian society still held to noble values and regard marriage as an identity in a happy family institution.

Dr Mahathir said he was grateful to God for being able to attend the family day which would be the last for him.

"Even if I attend, it will not be as Prime Minister, not as the No 1 boss of the Prime Minister's Department," he said.

He hoped the family day would continued to be held in the years to come.

-- BERNAMA

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