

Dr M: Laws alone won't stop crimes

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KUALA LUMPUR: The most effective way to prevent people from committing crimes and wrongdoings is to instil in them good and noble values instead of coming up with more laws, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said most of the time people restrained themselves from committing crimes because they knew it was wrong, and not because they were afraid of the laws.

However, he said laws were necessary as there would be chaos otherwise, adding that the laws must be enforced in a proper way and not at the whim of the enforcers.

"But the existence of laws does not guarantee that crime

will not happen. There is no better way to prevent crime than to instil good and noble values in people," he said last night when launching Wanita Perkim's (*Pertubuhan Kebajikan Islam Malaysia*) 25th anniversary themed *Jasamu Dikenang*.

He said what was being debated now was whether firm action was needed to ensure that Muslims practise morality.

"I don't know if such action will be effective or not. In Malaysia, we have a lot of laws - civil and criminal. But even if the punishment is severe such as death, people still commit crimes.

"So education to instil good values plays a very important role," he said.

Dr Mahathir added that sadly, statistics showed that Malays and Muslims were involved in many crimes, such as rape, incest and drug abuse.

"Even though these acts are forbidden by Islam they continue to commit them. They not only disregard the country's laws but also the religious law."

Dr Mahathir said that the best way to spread and preach Islam is by not committing crimes and by being disciplined and God-fearing.

The Perkim Wanita celebration was also to honour the body's founder, Malaysia's first prime minister, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman and other personalities for their contributions.