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Mahathir-Moral

MORAL DECADENCE AMONG M'SIANS SADDENS DR M

SEREMBAN, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is upset over the moral decadence and personal characters of Malaysians today, especially the younger generation.

"I'm very upset with the declining moral and cultural values plaguing our younger set.

"More saddening is the growing violent crimes like murders and robberies involving students as published in the mass media.

"Recently, a group of students from a secondary religious school can even assault a fellow student to death with no pity for him, without feeling guilty.

"I'm shocked by the incident. Murder is a heinous crime and it is happening in our society, in the midst of our youths and students," he said in his talk entitled "World-Class Schools" at the opening of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Seremban Dua, here.

Dr Mahathir said: "Even one-year-old babies are not safe as they also become victims of rape, murders and kidnap by those who cannot control their lust."

He attributed the rising crimes and moral decadence to the perpetrators unable to control their emotions and they do not have good values and qualities.

"They're also indisciplined and allowed the lust to control them, he said.

In his hour-long talk, Dr Mahathir advised the younger generation, particularly students, not to ape the western lifestyle culture which did not suit the lifestyle of the eastern society.

"We are easterners, not westerners. Easterners have their own way of life. Easterners still have rich values and qualities. We should not copy the undesirable misdemeanours of the west," he said.

Dr Mahathir was also sad as many Malays were involved in drug addiction.

At a media conference later, he urged religious groups to play a bigger role to educate and imbue good values as professed by Islam among the younger set.

"If we look at history, the arrival of Islam gave birth to a successful civilization to the Arabs during the period of Ignorance. If you study religion, you have a chance to become a good and successful person.

"If we are clever to recite Quranic verses, we should practise what Islam teaches. Religious people do not teach bad influences.

"Islam is the way of life and in Islam, we are brothers, we don't fight and kill people.

"But if we don't have Islamic values, we'll fail. That's why Islamic education is very important because Islam is the way of life. If we follow the Islamic way of life, we won't fail, we'll succeed. The problem is, we don't follow," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the social ills plaguing the country was influenced by the surroundings like Internet facilities which enables students and the people to surf it to get information, materials and obscene pictures.

"We can block and censor them like in Germany and China. Nowadays, youths watching pornography get "high" when they see children and women.

"People who distribute such materials must be punished with the harshest penalty because our morals have slided badly," he added.

-- BERNAMA
APG MAI TOM