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Mahathir-Values

EROSION OF NOBLE VALUES CAUSE OF NEGATIVE INFLUENCES, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 11 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the gradual erosion of noble values was a reason for negative influences to seep into society.

Therefore, he said, parents and teachers should play a more effective role by fostering good values in children to enable them to counter the bad influences.

"The character of a society is determined by the values practised by that society. If we foster noble values, I believe there will be no place for negative traits.

"What is happening now is that the bad influences derived from the television and Internet are overpowering the noble values. This is what is causing rapes, murders and so on," he said at the Education Discourse with Tun Dr Mahathir organised by the Pahang Foundation here.

Dr Mahathir said this during a question-and-answer session at the discourse, attended by about 2,000 Pahang-born students of institutions of higher learning from the country.

Dr Mahathir said the laws could not check negative influences because people who violated the laws assumed that they would not be caught by the authorities.

"Let's ask ourselves why we are not drug addicts. Is it because there are laws against that or is it because of the values implanted in us that drugs are undesirable?" he asked.

Earlier, in his speech, Dr Mahathir advised the younger generation not to forget history but to use it as a guide for the future.

"When I say remember history, it does not mean keeping in mind the dates of when events took place but to learn history so that we can avoid the mistakes that were made in the past," he said.

He said history has shown that no matter how developed a civilisation can be, the failure to learn from history can result in its downfall.

Therefore, he said, the younger generation should not become complacent with the comfort experienced in the country but enhance their capabilities to face future challenges.

-- BERNAMA

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