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Mahathir-TV

REVIEW REALITY TV PROGRAMS, ADVISES DR MAHATHIR

SERI KEMBANGAN, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- The Government needs to review television programs aired by TV stations including reality shows, which borrow extensively from Western culture that is feared to threaten the Eastern values of Malaysians.

Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the review was to determine whether the reality shows that had become a phenomenon in every Malaysian household left a good or bad influence to the people, leading to moral decadence.

"We need to review this (reality show). I think we should look again at it, to see whether it is good or bad but we mustn't just copy people," he told reporters when asked for his immediate reaction on reality TV shows raised by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, last Tuesday.

Najib urged the TV stations not to blindly copy Western culture and be so driven by commercial and market considerations that they neglected ethical and moral issues, but to take into account the objective of nation building.

Some quarters, including academics, have expressed their concern on this issue and wanted the government to review all TV programs such as reality TV shows, soap dramas and even commercial advertisements borrowed or adopted from Western countries.

A committee chaired by Najib had been set up recently to look into this issue.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir delivered a public lecture titled 'Moving Towards A Progressive Society' attended by University Putra Malaysia (UPM) students, lecturers and other staff at Dewan Besar PKKSSAAS UPM, here today.

In his lecture Dr Mahathir said Malaysia could no longer follow the European and Western countries to progress, as they appeared 'to have lost their sense of values' and collapsed in morality.

"It is clear that European and Western module is no longer suitable for us to be progressive," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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