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Respect family institution, says Dr Mahathir

PORT DICKSON, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded the people to uphold and respect the family institution as this was what made the country peaceful and stable.

At a dinner in conjunction with the Prime Minister's Department's family day at a resort here tonight, he said that as Easterners, Malaysians should regard the family as a vital element in stabilising and harmonising society.

Also present was Dr Mahathir's wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

"In certain countries, the family institution does not mean a thing. They also regard marriage as not important.

"That is why they don't even know their father, mother and family members."

Dr Mahathir said goodwill and close relationships among office mates were also important.

"We should not only concentrate on our own families but also maintain rapport with the families of our colleagues.

"This way, we will be able to focus on our work apart from working closely with the others. This will result in enhanced solidarity and integration among races."