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PM: Porn one reason for rise in sex crimes

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Pornography and its rampant distribution are among the reasons for the increase in sex crimes against women and even small children, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"There must be something in such movies that stirs their (rapists') base desires. Previously (when there was less pornography available), society was more sober and people were shy about sex," he said.

Speaking after launching a rural empowerment programme called Gerakan Daya Wawasan, he said the rise in crime was a downfall of modern life in which people's minds were corrupted by pornography.

"I would relate it to the new lifestyle. It is a corruption of the mind due to pornography. A young man looking at porn can become extremely excited until he doesn't care, doesn't think. He sees a child, he rapes the child," Dr Mahathir said.

On the availability of pornographic movies and the profits the pornography industry made, he said:

"Look at today's newspapers about the former Malaysia Airlines steward. Dia nak cari duit, cara begitu, kah? (He wants to make money, is this how he does it?)"

Dr Mahathir was referring to Mohd Rizal Mat Yusof who was charged in the Klang Sessions Court yesterday with producing a pornographic video compact disc.

Asked about juvenile crimes, such as the 13-year-old boy recently convicted of murdering his tuition teacher's 11-year-old daughter, Dr Mahathir said children tended to mimic what they saw on television.