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Siti Zaharah: Be sensitive to needs of senior citizens

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Young people have been urged to be more sensitive to the needs of senior citizens.

"Most of them do not know what to do when they see an old person in trouble. Some even think twice before offering a seat to an older person using public transport," National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said today.

"The older generation has sacrificed much for the country's development," she added.

She said this after attending the National Senior Citizen Day 2003, which was launched by Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin at Hotel Nikko.

More than 1,000 senior citizens from various organisations attended the function, which was organised by the ministry and the Welfare Services Department.

Siti Zaharah said senior citizens should remain active in various fields to boost the country's economy.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is a fine example. He is already 77 years old but he can still think and act fast," she added.

Siti Zaharah also said her ministry was working with the Education, and Rural Development ministries to monitor childcare centres in urban and rural areas.