

**Let Teenagers Pursue Their Interests - Rosmah
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 20 (Bernama) -- Teenagers should be given the chance to pursue their interests so that they can make productive contribution to the country in the future, said the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

She said guidance and encouragement would enhance the potential of the young as future leaders.

Rosmah said 7.6 million people, or 26.2 per cent of the nation's population, were aged between 15 and 29.

"This figure shows that our country has a large talent pool and that there are many young people with potential to lead the country in the future," she said when launching the Permata Centre for Youth Empowerment (Perkasa) Community Centre at the Sri Pantai and Pantai Ria People's Housing Project (PPR), Pantai Dalam, here today.

"Their potential will not be realised if we neglect them," she said, adding that youngsters should also embody eastern values, be courteous and understand the value of gratitude.

The Sri Pantai and Pantai Ria PPR Permata Perkasa Community Centre is a pilot programme under Permata, with the collaboration of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) to provide various life skills activities such as cake decoration, photography, vocals and music, make-up and hairdressing as well as an artshoes club.

The centre also conducts a Homework Club where UKM students provide academic guidance to secondary school students in their daily homework.

So far, 750 teenagers have taken part in the activities carried out by the community centre since it was established in March 2010.

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