

**Govt To Ensure 'Sandwich Family' Practice To Persist In Malaysia**  
**Bernama**  
**April 26, 2015**

TANJUNG MALIM, April 26 (Bernama) -- The Women, Family and Community Development Ministry will strive to ensure that the 'sandwich family' practice will continue to persist in the country to overcome loneliness or 'empty nest' issue among senior citizens.

Minister Datuk Seri Rohani Abdul Karim said the 'sandwich family' comprised a couple who were sandwiched between raising their children and taking care of their aging parents living in the same house.

She said the findings of the 4th Malaysian Population and Family Survey (2004) revealed that over 600,000 senior citizens in Malaysia were suffering from loneliness.

"Perak has 125,866 sandwich families out of the 559,405 families. The state is also ranked third for having 225,863 senior citizens suffering from 'empty nest' after Negeri Sembilan and Melaka."

She said this to reporters after opening the state-level Happy Family Tour 2015 themed 'I Love My family' at the Arena Square here Sunday.

The minister said having a sandwich family would enable the senior citizens would always be around family members and would not feel unloved and lonely.

"The sandwich family practice has existed for so long in Malaysia. We don't want it to vanish. Even by 2020 when Malaysia becomes a fully developed nation, the characteristics of this system must persist as it is one of the factors that make Malaysia unique," she said.

Meanwhile, Rohani said the ministry had set up 45 Senior Citizen Activity Centres nationwide, and would set up another five centres this year.

"The centre is a recreational centre for senior citizens. Working couples can sent their parents to the centre so that they will not feel so lonely," she added.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

Source : <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1129601>