

## **Permata Continues Efforts To Raise Awareness On Child Sexual Crimes**

KUANTAN, April 22 (Bernama) -- The Permata Negara (Permata) will continue its efforts to educate and raise public awareness on sexual crimes against children in the country, said its patron Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

She said among the measures being taken were through media campaigns, distributing leaflets and issuing guidelines on the early signs to detect the crime.

"We also plan to launch the Child Sexual Crimes Awareness Week programme, which will include talks, debates and arts.

"Permata will also provide modules and training for Taska Permata Negara operators to detect early signs of child sexual crimes," she said when speaking at the launch of the portal on crime complaints, Pahangcakna.com at Dewan Jubli Perak Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah here today.

Also present were Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob and wife Datin Seri Junaini Kassim as well as state Women and Family Development, Communications and Multimedia Committee chairman Datuk Shahaniza Shamsuddin.

Rosmah said the government viewed sexual crimes against children seriously and urgent action was needed to curb them even though parents were reluctant to lodge complaints because they wanted to protect their family name and victim.

"When in fact, such action can disrupt the victim's emotions and the crime likely to persist until the child is grown up. Discussions on sexual crimes are still considered sensitive and the subject a taboo in the culture of the community," said the Prime Minister's wife.

The most shocking aspect was that in many cases, she said the perpetrator was known and trusted by the victim such as family members, acquaintances, neighbours and adults in schools.

Hence, Rosmah said the existence of Pahangcakna.com under the Pahang Elected Representatives' Wives Charity Association initiative led by Junaini was deemed appropriate and would make it easier for the people to lodge complaints, including the victim or family members of the victim, to enable quick action to be taken to address the case concerned.

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