

PM: Protect the family unit to build rich human capital

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SHAH ALAM: The family unit must be protected at all cost because it is the foundation to building rich human capital, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"Strong families produce strong individuals. Likewise, a

family in trouble tends to have troubled children," he said when launching the Happy Family, Loving Family Carnival 2006.

He said nurturing human capital meant paying attention to building healthy family units.

"Mobilise efforts to make our

families have full of love and affection. Reach out to each and every member of the family: fathers, mothers, grandparents and children," said Abdullah.

"Organise forums for open discussions on how to achieve this aspiration. Get the experts

to give advice and create awareness.

"Non-governmental organisations should also work together with the Government towards this end," he said.

Abdullah called on parents to start planning on how to raise

their children even before the babies are born.

"Listen to our elders - they have valuable lessons to help us raise our children well," he said.

He said parents must guide their children so that they would choose to live healthy

and useful lives when they become adults.

"Love one another and love our children well. Let them grow up to be hardworking, well-mannered and disciplined, for they are the future of the country," he said.