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POLL

A most salient proposition that was derived from the concluded Langkawi International Dialogue 2007 with regards to poverty fighting measures:

- Women empowerment and gender equality
- Promotion of financial literacy among the poor
- Access to land, capital and productive resources
- Access to micro-credit financing
- Access to education and training
- Participation of multinational corporations

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Nicol David Calls On Youth To Play Bigger Role

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 13 (Bernama) -- United Nations goodwill ambassador and reigning world women's squash number one player Nicol Ann David has called on the youth to participate actively in overcoming the problems of today.

"By volunteering or joining any association or group, you are contributing positive changes to the community. At the same time, the active participation will gradually build the character, such as boosting life skills, employability and networkings," she said.

She was addressing students of Help University College at its main campus in Pusat Bandar Damansara in conjunction with the International Youth Day, themed "Be Seen, Be Heard: Youth Participation for Development" here today.

"In order for us to become positive agents of change, we must first empower ourselves with knowledge on issues that are affecting this country and globally.

"It is time for the young people in this country to realise their full potential as a positive force for development, peace and democracy," she said.

Nicol was appointed the first Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Programme in Malaysia back in 2000 for her outstanding qualities as a youth role model, particularly in the international squash scene.

According to UN statistics, about 200 million young people survive on less than US\$1 per day while 130 million are illiterate and there are around 10 million young people infected with HIV or have full-brown AIDS, most of them in Africa and Asia.

The International Youth Day, celebrated annually on Aug 12, is to recognise the 1.2 billion youth population worldwide and to appreciate their social-related achievements as well as to push for more participation from them in all areas of society.

-- BERNAMA

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