

(F)

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MAHATHIR - EYE  
BM

(EMBARGO; FOR RELEASE AT 5 P.M. TODAY, JUNE 24)

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 24 (BERNAMA) - DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED HAS SUGGESTED THE FORMATION OF AN EYE DONORS ASSOCIATION WHEN THE PROPOSED EYE BANK IS SET UP SOON.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WOULD FACILITATE THE TREATMENT FOR RESTORING EYE-SIGHT TO THE BLIND.

HE WAS OPENING THE FORUM ON THE HUMAN TISSUES ACT, 1974 HERE TODAY.

THE FORUM IS ORGANISED JOINTLY BY THE MALAYSIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, AND THE MALAYSIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND AND SPONSORED BY THE KUALA LUMPUR ROTARY CLUB.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT TRANSPLANT OF CATARACT-DISEASED CORNEA HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT IN HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTRY.

SUCH SURGERY HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE CLOSE COOPERATION FROM THE EYE-DONORS' ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA.  
- BERNAMA MORE 1303/BW

CORRECTION 'A' 'A' 'A' 'A' 'A' 'A' 'A'

IN ITEM 17 +ASEAN+ PARA THREE PLS READ....

AN ARMY BAND IN SMART RED AND WHITE UNIFORM PLAYED ..... PRT....  
... PLAYED THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.....

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MAHATHIR - EYE 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE AND WAS TAKING A SERIOUS VIEW OF EYE DISEASE IN THE COUNTRY.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THERE ARE BETWEEN 20,000 AND 30,000 BLIND PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID EYE-SIGHT WAS THE MOST TREASURED POSSESSION OF ANY PERSON AND ITS RESTORATION WAS A PRICELESS GIFT TO THE BLIND.

DR. MAHATHIR CLARIFIED THAT THE HUMAN TISSUE ACT WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE USE OF ANY PART OF THE HUMAN BODY INCLUDING CORNEA TISSUE OF DEAD PEOPLE FOR TREATMENT, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CAME INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 1 THIS YEAR.

THE ACT ALSO ENABLED ANY ONE TO DO HIS COMMUNITY SERVICE BY DONATING HIS BODY OR A PORTION OF HIS BODY FOR FURTHER USE AFTER HIS DEATH.

SUCH AN ACT COULD HELP RESTORE THE HEALTH OF A PATIENT WHO WAS SUFFERING FROM DISEASES DUE TO CERTAIN MAL-FUNCTIONS OF TISSUES OR ORGANS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID SUCH TRANSPLANTS COULD BRING UNTOLD JOY TO THE PATIENT WHO RECEIVED THE ORGANS. - BERNAMA MORE 1322/BW

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MAHATHIR EYE 3 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

HE SAID THIS METHOD WAS MOST BENEFICIAL, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR CORNEAS THROUGH ACCIDENTS.

DR. MAHATHIR URGED THOSE CONCERNED TO GIVE WIDE PUBLICITY TO THE LEGISLATION ON THE DONATION OF HUMAN TISSUE.

APART FROM THE TRANSPLANT OF CORNEA TISSUE, THE TRANSPLANT OF KIDNEYS HAD ALSO BEEN SUCCESSFULLY RARRIED OUT IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE.

THESE SUCCESSES, HE SAID, HAD DEMONSTRATED THE PROGRESS OF THE MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE COUNTRY.

THE COUNTRY HAD ENOUGH SPECIALISTS AND EQUIPMENT BUT THE PATIENTS COULD ONLY BENEFIT IF THE PEOPLE DONATED THE NECESSARY TISSUES AND ORGANS FOR THE TRANSPLANTS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HOWEVER STRESSED THAT THE TRANSPLANT OF HUMAN TISSUES WOULD ONLY BE CARRIED OUT ONLY AS THE LAST RESORT.

THE BASIC FACTS OF THE ISSUE SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY ALL SO THAT THERE WOULD

BE NO DOUBTS ABOUT IT, HE SAID. - BERNAMA 1327/BW *Reopen 137.*

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137:

MAHATHIR-EYE 4 KUALA LUMPUR (RE-OPENS ITEM 40)

DURING THE FORUM, MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, TAN SRI CHONG HON NYAN, WHO WAS A PANEL MEMBER SAID, DONATING TISSUES WAS AN ACT OF SACRIFICE AND NOT DESECRATION.

HE SAID IT WAS POPULARLY BELIEVED BY CERTAIN PEOPLE THAT DONATING THEIR ORGANS FOR TRANSPLANT PURPOSES WOULD GIVE RISE TO +DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR THEMSELVES IN THE AFTER-WORLD+.

TAN SRI CHONG SAID THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SEEKING ADMISSION TO HOSPITALS WAS EVIDENCE THAT MORE PEOPLE WERE ACCEPTING MODERN MEDICAL CARE AS A WAY OF LIFE.

+IT IS PRECISELY THAT ELEMENT OF HUMAN IMAGINATION THAT STILL REQUIRES TO BE GIVEN ATTENTION, IF HUMAN INSTINCTS, AND PREJUDICES ARE NOT TO LAG BEHIND SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENTS.+ --BERNAMA MORE

2026/BY

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138:

MAHATHIR-EYE 5 KUALA LUMPUR

OTHER PANEL MEMBERS WERE DR. HUSSEIN BIN AWANG, A CONSULTANT SURGEON IN THE GENERAL HOSPITAL HERE, PROFESSOR AHMAD IBRAHIM, DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY MALAYA LAW FACULTY, MRS. R. BHUPALAN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS AND VEN. REV. DHAMMANANDA, CHIEF HIGH PRIEST OF THE BUDDHIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

CHIEF JUSTICE TAN SRI S. S. GILL, CHAIRED THE FORUM.

DR. AWANG SAID IT WAS THE HIGHEST HUMANITARIAN IDEAL OF ANY MAN TO DONATE HIS ORGANS BEFORE OR ON HIS DEATH FOR THE WELL-BEING OF ANOTHER IN NEED.

HE ADDED THERE WAS A VERY HIGH SUCCESS RATE IN CORNEAL AND KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS AT PRESENT COMPARED WITH TREATMENT OF CANCER.

HE SUGGESTED THAT DONOR FORMS BE DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO HELP THEM DICIDE ON DONATING THEIR ORGANS FOR THE BENEFIT OF NEEDY PERSONS.--BERNAMA MORE 2030/BY

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139:

MAHATHIR-EYE 6 KUALA LUMPUR

PROFESSOR AHMAD IBRAHIM SAID IT WAS NOT AGAINST THE ISLAMIC RELIGION FOR MUSLIMS TO DONATE ANY ORGAN IN THEIR BODIES SUCH AS THE KIDNEY OR CORNEA FOR TRANSPLANT.

THE KORAN HE SAID, LEFT IT TO ITS FOLLOWERS TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES IF THE WANTED TO MAKE SUCH DONATIONS.

VEN. REV. DHAMMANANDA SAID BUDDHISM WAS ALL FOR THE SACRIFICE OF A PERSON'S WHOLE SELF IF NECESSARY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS.

HE WAS SURE THAT THOUSANDS OF BUDDHISTS IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BE WILLING TO DONATE THEIR EYES.

MRS. BHUPALAN URGED THE AUTHORITIES TO GIVE FULL PUBLICITY ON THE HUMAN TISSUES ACT TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO DONATE THEIR ORGANS.--BERNAMA 2033/BY