

(F)

69:

MAHATHIR-DRUGS

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 9 P.M. TODAY)

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 30 (BERNAMA) -- DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TONIGHT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS +ALARMED+ AT THE EXTENT OF DRUG ABUSE IN THE COUNTRY AND WARNED THAT THE PROBLEM MUST BE CHECKED BEFORE IT MADE MALAYSIAN SOCIETY +MAD+.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TOLD KUALA LUMPUR LIONS CLUB MEMBERS AT THEIR INSTALLATION DINNER HERE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ENXIETY HAD LED TO THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW LAWS PROVIDING THE DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

A CABINET COMMITTEE HEADED BY HIMSELF MET REGULARLY TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES ON SUPPRESSION OF DRUG SMUGGLING AND DRUG ABUSE, DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF ADDICTS, ARREST AND PUNISHMENT OF PEDDLERS AND PUSHERS.

BUT, THESE EFFORTS WOULD BE USELESS IF THE PEOPLE SHOWED NO INTEREST.

WHAT THE PUBLIC COULD DO TO EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT WAS TO GIVE INFORMATION, URGE ADDICTS TO SEEK TREATMENT AND KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THEIR CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES.--BERNAMA MORE 1624/BY

(F)

70:

MAHATHIR-.DRUGS 2 KUALA LUMPUR (EMBARGO)

+SUPPORT THEY MUST IF WE ARE EVER GOING TO SUCCEED IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO CURE THIS SOCIAL ILL,+ DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

DESCRIBING THE PUBLIC ROLE AS CRUCIAL, HE SAID ONE OF THE CAUSES OF FAILURE IN TREATING ADDICTS WAS THE ATTITUDE OF PARENTS.

THERE WERE SOME PARENTS WHO URGED THEIR SONS TO RUN AWAY FROM THE REHABILITATION CENTRE IN IPOH IN ORDER TO SAVE MONEY, CAUSING THEIR SONS TO RETURN TO THEIR OLD HABITS AND THE TREATMENT TO BE WASTED.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LINKED DRUG ABUSE TO THE INCREASE IN CRIMES AND ADDED THAT ERADICATION OF THE PROBLEM WOULD MEAN A BETTER AND SAFER SOCIETY.

HE URGED SERVICE CLUBS LIKE THE LIONS CLUB TO HELP DRIVE HOME THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM.

THEY SHOULD ALSO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE TREATMENT OF ADDICTS COUNSELLING WAS NEEDED WHILE THE ADDICTS WERE BEING TREATED AND AFTER CURE WAS EFFECTED.--BERNAMA 1627/BY