

MAHATHIR (BERNAMA EX)

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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 3 (BERNAMA)—THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER INCREASING THE \$5 MILLION ALLOCATED UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN TO CURB DRUG ABUSE, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE HOWEVER STRESSED THAT THE ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION COULD ONLY BE GIVEN AFTER SYSTEMATIC PROGRAMMES HAD BEEN MADE ON THE MATTER.

HE TOLD BERNAMA THAT THOUGH THE SUM MIGHT NOT BE ENOUGH TO FULLY ERADICATE DRUG ABUSE AND ADDICTION, SEVERAL MINISTRIES CONCERNED HAD ALSO BEEN GIVEN ALLOCATION FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID: +WE REALISE THE DRUG PROBLEM IS NOT ONLY SERIOUS IN TERMS OF ITS EFFECT ON THOSE INVOLVED BUTY

WE ARE ALSO WORRIED THAT THE NUMBER OF DRUG ADDICTS WILL INCREASE.+

ON THE REHABILITATION OF DRUG ADDICTS, HE SAID THE MAJOR PROBLEM FACED BY THE GOVERNMENT NOW WAS TO GET TRAINED OFFICERS TO CHECK DRUG ADDICTION. —BERNAMA MORE 1620/MD

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ACCORDING TO HIM, THE GOVERNMENT FACED THE PROBLEM OF GETTING ENOUGH PLACES TO REHABILITATE ALL DRUG ADDICTS WHO NOW NUMBERED 100,000 TO 150,000 IN THE COUNTRY.

AT PRESENT THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT 70,000 BEDS IN HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTRY WHICH WERE ENOUGH TO GIVE TREATMENT TO PATIENTS BETWEEN ONE TO THREE DAYS OR AT THE MOST TWO TO THREE MONTHS FOR ANY PATIENT.

EVERY ADDICT REQUIRED BETWEEN ONE TO THREE YEARS, TREATMENT, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO EDUCATION MINISTER, SAID THE AUTHORITIES REALISED THAT THERE WERE A SMALL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN DRUG ABUSE.

THE MATTER, HE SAID, WAS BEING STUDIED BY THE MINISTRY IN THE SCHOOLS INVOLVED.

HE URGED PARENTS TO SUPERVISE THEIR CHILDREN ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY WERE IN THE HOUSE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THAT PARENTS DID NOT GIVE TOO MUCH FREEDOM TO THEIR CHILDREN AND SHOULD ALWAYS WATCH THEIR ACTIVITIES.

HE STRESSED THAT ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE LAW WOULD BE INEFFE- CTIVE WITHOUT THE FULLEST COOPERATION AND SERIOUS CONSIDERATION FROM THE PEOPLE ESPECIALLY THE PARENTS. —BERNAMA 1625/MD