

NO14 (F)
DADAH-MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 2³¹ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE BOLD STEPS TO WIPE OUT THE DADAH MENACE WHICH WAS THREATENING THE RESILIENCE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MERE INSIGHTS, UNDERSTANDING AND CONCEPTS ON DADAH ABUSE WERE MEANINGLESS AND EMPTY UNLESS BOLD ACTION WAS TAKEN TO ENSURE RESULTS.

OPENING THE FOUR-DAY THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ON DADAH USE PREVENTION AND CONTROL HERE, HE SAID IT WOULD BE A SAD DAY FOR ALL IF RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, INCLUDING THIS CONFERENCE, DID NOT SEE THE PHASE OF IMPLEMENTATION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID AS FAR AS MALAYSIA WAS CONCERNED THE DADAH PROBLEM WAS STILL HER NUMBER ONE ENEMY AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECLARED IT AS A SECURITY PROBLEM.
—BERNAMA MORE 1207/AN

NO17 (F)
DADAH-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY SPENT MORE THAN \$100 MILLION ON THE VARIOUS DADAH PREVENTION PROGRAMMES.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS NOT THE AMOUNT SPENT BUT THE RESULT, HE EMPHASISED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD EXTEND ASSISTANCE TO PEMADAM (NATIONAL ANTI-DRUG ABUSE ASSOCIATION) AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS SO THAT THE NATION WOULD BE ABLE TO CONFRONT THE DADAH PROBLEM ON ALL FRONTS.

HE URGED ALL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE BATTLE AGAINST DADAH.

WE IN THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ONLY ASSIST THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS BUT ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR EFFORTS IN EFFECTIVELY COMPLEMENTING AND SUPPLEMENTING THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS, HE SAID.

101
"WE CANNOT ALLOW THE EXPRESSION 'EVERBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY IS NO ONE'S CONCERN' TO BE TRUE OF DADAH PREVENTION+.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS VERY DISTURBED BY THE LAX ATTITUDE AND ABSENCE OF SENSE OF URGENCY OF VARIOUS PROFESSIONS AND DISCIPLINES WHICH WOULD JUST ARGUE ABOUT THE PROBLEM AND DO NOTHING ABOUT IT.
--BERNAMA MORE 1197/AN

NO18 (F)
DADAH-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE DADAH PROBLEM WAS ALSO A SYMPTOM OF THE MANY UNDERLYING CURRENT SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

+THE BREAKDOWN IN THE INFLUENCE OF THE FAMILY, URBAN MIGRATION AND WEAKENING IN RELIGIOUS BELIEF AND IN SOCIAL NORMS ARE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORSENING OF DADAH PROBLEMS,+ HE ADDED.

THE PROBLEM, HE POINTED OUT WAS LIKE THE QUESTION OF THE CHICKEN AND EGG - WHICH CAME FIRST?

+IN THE CASE OF DADAH, IF WE SEEK TO CURE THE UNDERLYING SOCIAL PROBLEM FIRST, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE SPREAD OF DADAH WILL PREVENT SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, TRYING TO TACKLE THE DADAH PROBLEM WITHOUT ATTENDING TO THE UNDERLYING PROBLEM IS LIKELY TO PROVE AS UNSUCCESSFUL+.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE OBVIOUS ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM WAS TO MOVE ON A BROAD FRONT, THAT IS TO TACKLE BOTH THE UNDERLYING AND THE RELATED DADAH PROBLEM TOGETHER.

+AND TOWARDS THIS OBJECTIVE OF RIDDING MALAYSIA OF DADAH USE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE, THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT TOLERATE PETTY JEALOUSIES BETWEEN GROUPS OR PROFESSIONS+, HE ADDED.

--BERNAMA MORE 1220/AN

DADAH-MAHATHIR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WHICH WERE BOTH THE SOURCE AND BEARER OF THE BRUNT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DADAH PROBLEM MERIT GREATER ATTENTION OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY.

IT WAS IN THE INTEREST OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY NOT MERELY TO ASSIST ASEAN IN THE FIELD OF SUPPLY REDUCTION (OF DADAH) BUT ALSO IN THE AREA OF DEMAND REDUCTION.

+THE WORLD WILL REAP A BONUS IF THE DADAH PROBLEM IN ASEAN REGION IS REDUCED, IF NOT WIPED OUT,+ HE ADDED.

MALAYSIA UNDERSTOOD THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DADAH PROBLEM AND HAD ACCORDINGLY DESIGNATED IT AS A SECURITY PROBLEM.

THE COUNTRY HAD ADVANCED THIS CONCEPT FOR INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION AT THE 28TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUG HELD IN GENEVA IN 1979.

+WE ARE HAPPY THAT THE 96TH MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS RECOGNISED THE GROWING THREAT CAUSED BY THE DADAH USE AND ITS SERIOUS IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES+, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

—BERNAMA MORE 1245/AN

NO28 (F)

DADAH-MAHATHIR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

EIGHTY DELEGATES FROM 22 COUNTRIES ARE TAKING PART IN THE CONFERENCE ORGANISED BY PEMADAM AND SPONSORED BY THE NARCOTICS SECRETARIAT, MALAYSIA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE COLOMBO PLAN BUREAU AND THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND ADDICTIONS (ICAA).

AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS ARE THOSE FROM THAILAND, INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, HONG KONG, SRI LANKA, UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, NEPAL AND MALAYSIA. -- BERNAMA 1312/SZ