

NO15 (F)
MAHATHIR - PERINATAL

142

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 13⁹¹ (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) HAS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE MILLION RINGGIT PERINATAL PROJECT NOW BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE COUNTRY COULD LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST PERINATAL CENTRE IN THE COUNTRY, TO BE FOLLOWED BY MORE SUCH CENTRES IN LATER YEARS.

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS OPENING THE CONFERENCE ON +PERSPECTIVES IN PERINATAL MEDICINE+ AND LAUNCHING THE PERINATAL PROJECT HERE TODAY, CALLED ON HEALTH PLANNERS TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE RATHER SLOW PROGRESS IN THE DECLINE OF THE PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE HAD SHOWN AN ENCOURAGING 60 PER CENT DECLINE SINCE 1955, THERE HAD BEEN ONLY A MODEST DECLINE OF 29 PER CENT IN THE PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE.

PERINATAL DEATH REFERS TO THE DEATH OF BABIES BORN AFTER SEVEN MONTHS WITHIN ONE WEEK AFTER DELIVERY INCLUDING STILL BORN BABIES. -- BERNAMA MORE 1215/MK

NO16 (F)
MAHATHIR - PERINATAL 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI MAHATHIR SAID HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND PLANNERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE ROLES OUGHT TO BE CONCERNED WITH THIS DISCREPANCY.

THE PERINATAL PROJECT, TO STUDY THE RATHER SLOW IMPROVEMENT IN THE PERINATAL PERFORMANCE IN THE COUNTRY, SHOULD BE ABLE TO SUGGEST MEASURES FOR IMPROVING THE PERINATAL PERFORMANCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE PERINATAL PERFORMANCE WAS NOW CONSIDERED TO BE A VERY IMPORTANT PHASE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE WHAT HAPPENED DURING THIS PHASE MIGHT AFFECT THE QUALITY OF LIFE LATER.

MISHAPS WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE PERINATAL PERIOD WERE IMPLICATED NOT ONLY IN NEONATAL AND INFANT DEATHS, BUT THE SURVIVORS OF THESE MISHAPS COULD END UP WITH VARIOUS TYPES OF MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HANDICAPS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1226/MK

NO23: (F)
MAHATHIR-PERINATAL 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID PREDICTION OF MISHAPS AND PROPER INTERVENTION COULD CONCEIVABLE ENABLE THE PRACTISING SPECIALISTS TO REDUCE THE DISABILITIES ARISING DURING THIS CRUCIAL PERIOD OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT HAD BEEN RAPID OVER THE LAST FEW DECADES, ENABLING THE PRESENT DAY SPECIALIST TO DOCTOR THE MOTHER AS WELL AS THE BABY WHILE STILL IN THE WOMB.

DATUK FSERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT SPECIAL UNITS N ED TO BE DEVELOPED TO FACILITATE AN ORGANISED APPROACH IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THOSE BABIES WHO DESPITE PREVENTIVE MEASURES WOULD STILL BE BORN WITH PROBLEMS NEEDING URGENT ATTENTION.

HE HOPED THAT THE FACULTIES OF MEDICINE IN THE LOCAL UNIVERSITIES WOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN THE SETTING UP OF SUCH CENTRES WHICH NEEDED SPECIALLY TRAINED MEDICAL AND PARA-MEDICAL MAN POWER.--
BERNAMA MORE 1318/1B

NO24: (F)
MAHATHIR-PERINATAL 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PERINATAL PROJECT IN MALAYSIA IS FINANCED BY THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR POPULATION ACTIVITIES (UNFPA) AND THE UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING BOARD ARE COLLABORATING IN IT.

ABOUT 300 PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS ARE ATTENDING THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE ON PERINATAL MEDICINE.--
BERNAMA 1322/1B