

MAHATHIR-PEMADAM
BM

83
IPOH, JULY 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE OVER REHABILITATION OF DADAH ADDICTS AT THE VARIOUS NON-GOVERNMENT DADAH TREATMENT CENTRES IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THAT WITH THE MOVE, PEMADAM WOULD NO LONGER BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN REHABILITATION WORK ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE ASKED TO TAKE CHARGE OF AFTER-CARE COUNSELLING FOR ADDICTS WHO HAD UNDERGONE REHABILITATION.

+REHABILITATION WORK INVOLVES LARGE AMOUNT OF FUNDS AND BIG MANPOWER AND PEMADAM CAN UNDERSTAND THIS AS ITS REHABILITATION CENTRE IN SUNGAI BESI FOR INSTANCE IS DEPENDENT ON GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL AND MANPOWER AID, + HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT THE SIXTH GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL PEMADAM HERE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE TAKE-OVER OF THE JOB BY GOVERNMENT REHABILITATION CENTRES IN PLACES LIKE TAMPOI, BESUT AND BUKIT MERTAJAM AND THE ONE-STOP CENTRE AT TAMPIN.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TAKE OVER THE PEMADAM REHABILITATION CENTRE AT SUNGAI BESI AS YET. -- MORE 1355/PA
MAHATHIR-PEMADAM 2 IPOH

PEMADAM IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN SEVERAL ACTIVITIES TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT ERADICATE DADAH ABUSE INCLUDING INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS THROUGH TALKS, EXHIBITIONS, FILM SHOWS AND DISSEMINATION OF READING MATERIALS AND REHABILITATION WORK.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT FELT THAT PEMADAM COULD MAKE A MORE EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION IF THE ORGANIZATION, WHICH WAS VOLUNTARY BODY, CONCENTRATED ON SPECIFIC TASKS.

HE SAID PEMADAM COULD CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS ROLE IN THE INFORMATION FRONT TO PREVENT THE ABUSE OF DADAH.

HE SAID THAT LOCAL PEMADAM MEMBERS WOULD HAVE THE TASK OF PROVIDING INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN EDUCATING THE SOCIETY TO AVOID THINGS THAT COULD RESULT IN PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE ON ADDICTS WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED THEIR REHABILITATION.

+THE CRITICAL PERIOD FOR DADAH ADDICTS IS THE FIRST SIX MONTHS AFTER LEAVING REHABILITATION CENTRES AND EVEN AFTER THIS, THEY STILL NEED MORAL SUPPORT FOR THE NEXT ONE YEAR OR TWO+, HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE BIGGEST HAZARD DURING THE PERIOD WERE FRIENDS WHO HAD INTRODUCED THEM TO DADAH AND WHO WERE STILL HOOKED ON IT.

--MORE 1415/PA

MAHATHIR-PEMADAM 3 IPOH

HE SAID THE RECOMMENDED SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES FOR PEMADAM WOULD NOT REQUIRE THE NATIONAL PEMADAM TO SEEK LARGE AMOUNT OF FUNDS FOR THEIR FINANCING.

+IN SHORT, THE ROLE IS MORE A WELFARE-ORIENTED EFFORTS WITH THE DIFFERENCE BEING THAT PEMADAM MEMBERS PROVIDE A CONTINUAL FLOW OF INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR THE LOCAL SOCIETY.+

HE SAID AFTER-CARE COUNSELLING DEMANDED A LEVEL OF EFFORT AND DEDICATION HIGHER THAN THAT REQUIRED FOR COORDINATING REHABILITATION CENTRES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT.

+PEMADAM'S STANDING AS A VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION WOULD NOT BE IMPAIRED OR LESSENE+, HE ASSURED. THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY PEMADAM WILL BE ONE THAT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO ASSUME.

DATI BERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID PEMADAM MEMBERS COULD HELP EX-DADAH ADDICTS PARTICULARLY THOSE WITHOUT SKILLS FIND EMPLOYMENT BY LIAISING WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR OTHER BODIES TO SECURE WORKSHOP TRAINING FOR THEM. -- MORE 1629/PA

MAHATHIR-PEMADAM 4 IPOH

PEMADAM HAD ALREADY INTRODUCED A SCHEME TO +ADOPT+ EX-ADDICTS WHO WOULD NEED A +SYMPATHETIC EAR+ TO WHICH THEY COULD POUR THEIR TROUBLES OR PROBLEMS.

EX-ADDICTS WHO HAD UNDERGONE REHABILITATION WOULD MOREOVER REQUIRE THE ATTENTION AND ASSISTANCE OF FAMILY AND SOCIETY WHO REALLY UNDERSTOOD THEIR PROBLEMS.

THE PRIME MINISTER BELIEVED THAT IN THIS RESPECT PEMADAM MEMBERS COULD HELP PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO PARENTS AND FAMILIES OF THE EX-ADDICTS.

HE HOPED THIS COULD ACT AS A GUIDELINE IN THE FUTURE PLANNING OF PEMADAM PROGRAMMES AS A VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION.

HE URGED FIRMS, HIGHER EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS AND SCHOOLS TO BECOME MEMBERS OF PEMADAM IN VIEW OF THE UNSATISFACTORY RESPONSE BY PRIVATE FIRMS.

INVOLVEMENT OF MORE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS WOULD HELP PEMADAM BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE, HE SAID. -- BERNAHA 1632/PA