

Fighting pushers on world front

Set up UN unit against dadah—Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called for the establishment of a special organisation under the United Nations to fight dadah abuse and trafficking.

Such an organisation was needed to fight the dadah menace which was threatening every nation in the world, he said in opening the 18th Asean Foreign Ministers' meeting today.

Dadah abuse and its illicit trafficking posed the biggest social challenge to Asean today, the Prime Minister said.

"If the Kampuchean problem poses the biggest political challenge to our ingenuity, our creativity and our efforts, the problem of dadah abuse and illicit trafficking poses the biggest social challenge.

Urgency

"In your country as in mine we have undertaken great efforts to deal with this dreaded disease. We have sought to galvanise our society in the war against narcotics."

However, it was time, he said, "to take the fight to the international arena and to create a world concern against the abuse of dadah and

the criminals who perpetrate this crime against humanity."

Dr Mahathir said that while he welcomed the call by the UN Secretary-General for a world conference of Ministers to start a programme to fight the narcotics situation, there was still a need to set up a permanent world body to fight the problem.

Such an organisation, he said, could be similar to that set up for refugees.

Drug abuse and trafficking he said was "a menace which recognises no boundary and threatens all societies in every part of the world."

He impressed upon Asean and its dialogue partners to understand the necessity and urgency for a concerted effort to spearhead this global war against narcotics.

The situation was grave and because it was so universal the global community should be commonly concerned, he said.

The problem of drug abuse and trafficking is one of the main topics on the agenda at the Foreign Ministers' meeting. Other topics include the Kampuchean problem and trade issues.