

MAHATHIR
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 26 (BERNAMA) -- ALL DADAH OFFENDERS, WHETHER MALAYSIANS OR FOREIGNERS, WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE SAME WAY UNDER THE DADAH LAWS OF THE COUNTRY, DATUK (SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY.

+THERE WILL BE NO COMPROMISE FOR THOSE WHO ARE SLOWLY KILLING OUR PEOPLE. THERE WILL BE NO FORGIVENESS FOR THEM,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING A NATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS IN DADAH PREVENTION HERE.

CONDEMNING DADAH TRAFFICKERS AND DESCRIBING THEM AS BEING INHUMAN AND CRUEL MURDERERS, HE WARNED THAT THOSE WHO INTENDED TO BECOME TRAFFICKERS WOULD END UP ON THE HANGING ROPE AND THE PROPERTY AMASSED FROM THEIR CRIMES WOULD BE CONFISCATED.

THE TWO-DAY SEMINAR ORGANISED BY BAKTI, THE WELFARE BODY OF WIVES OF MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS, WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 300 PEOPLE. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DADAH MENACE WAS A SERIOUS PHENOMENON BECAUSE MOST OF THOSE INVOLVED IN DRUG ABUSE WERE BELOW 30 AND BECAUSE IT WAS ON THIS GENERATION THAT THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY WOULD DEPEND.

HE WARNED THAT IF DADAH ABUSE WAS ALLOWED TO SPREAD, IT WOULD WEAKEN ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY RIGHT FROM THE FAMILY TO THE MASSES AND THE COUNTRY WOULD FALL INTO THE HANDS OF OTHERS.

+BECAUSE OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO BE STERN AND IMPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY ON DRUG TRAFFICKERS,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO URGED EVERYONE TO JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND REALISE THAT THIS WAS TO SAVE THE YOUNGER GENERATION AND CREATE A DIGNIFIED AND RESPECTED SOCIETY.

+I AM AWARE THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL ORGANISATIONS LIKE PEMADAM WHICH ARE HELPING THE GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT THE MENACE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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HE SAID THE ANTI-DADAH CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WOULD BE CONTINUED TO REMIND THE PEOPLE OF THE DANGERS AND THREAT POSED BY DADAH.

HE ADVISED PARENTS TO INSTIL RELIGIOUS AND EASTERN VALUES IN THEIR CHILDREN AS DADAH ADDICTION WAS LINKED TO MORAL DECLINE AND NON-ACCEPTANCE OF RELIGION IN WESTERN SOCIETY.

PARENTS WOULD HAVE TO GUIDE THEIR CHILDREN WELL BECAUSE OF THE GREATER FREEDOM THEY NOW ENJOYED AND IN VIEW OF THEIR EXPOSURE TO THE FOREIGN WAY OF LIFE WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE PEOPLE'S CULTURE, HE ADDED.

HE SAID PARENTS HAD TO INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN ANTI-DADAH DRIVES AND ALSO POINT OUT TO THEIR CHILDREN THE DANGERS OF DADAH WHEN THEY WERE STILL YOUNG TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM DRUGS.

HE SAID THAT A TOTAL OF 13,239 ADDICTS HAD UNDERGONE REHABILITATION FROM 1983 TO AUGUST THIS YEAR COMPARED WITH 9,142 FROM 1980 TO 1982.

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+A LOT OF MONEY IS SPENT ON TREATING THESE ADDICTS BUT WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THEIR WORKING POTENTIAL AND PRODUCTIVITY ARE ALSO LOST,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE AMOUNT SPENT ON REHABILITATION RAN INTO HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF RINGGIT AND THIS WAS A WASTE.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH SAID PARENTS SHOULD NOT ONLY DEPEND ON THE GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT THE PROBLEM.

+THE PROBLEM IS CRITICAL AND WILL AFFECT THE STABILITY AND SECURITY OF THE NATION,+ SHE ADDED.

SHE HOPED THAT THE SEMINAR WOULD MAKE PARENTS MORE AWARE OF THEIR ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS DADAH PREVENTION.

-- BERNAMA

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