

Culture can check spread of dadah'

The Prime Minister described the increase as "serious," since it involves largely those under 30 years of age — those in their prime who have much to contribute towards nation-building.

He also made it clear that Malaysia stands by its harsh laws and punishments for dadah offenders, irrespective of nationality or creed.

"There shall be no compassion for traffickers — these criminals who are merchants of death responsible for the slow killing of the people."

A REVIVAL of the country's declining cultural values can help check the spread of the dadah menace.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday drew a parallel between dadah addiction and moral decline and the rejection of religious values which is rampant in the West today.

SM 27.06
Dr Mahathir was speaking at the launching of the first national conference on the involvement of parents in dadah eradication at the Putra World Trade Centre.

More than 350 participants are taking part in the two-day conference organised by Bakti, the Association for the Wives of Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Parlia-

mentary Secretaries.

The Prime Minister called upon the younger generation to instil a sense of courtesy, parental respect and deeper religious commitment and to discard unsuitable Western values.

Serious

He said the number of addicts undergoing rehabilitation had increased from 9,142 between 1980 and 1982 to 13,239 from 1983 to last August.