

# No compromise on drug laws, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stressed today that the country's tough drug laws are meant for Malaysians as well as foreigners.

"We will not compromise on this issue as drug traffickers are slowly killing our people.

"Anyone thinking of becoming a trafficker should remember that their lifespan will be shortened by the hangman's noose," he said when opening the national conference on *Parental Involvement in Drug Prevention* organised by Bakti.

He said the ill-gotten assets of these traffickers could also be seized.

"There is no forgiveness for these people."

Dr Mahathir said that if drug abuse became more

widespread, the country would be destroyed or controlled by outsiders. "There will be chaos."

What was worrying, he said, was that most of those involved in drugs were people below 30 years "who are the hope of the nation."

"The Government has spent millions of dollars in rehabilitation centres to help these people and make them productive citizens.

"But compared to the amount spent by the addicts, it appears that hundreds of millions of dollars is lost without any returns," he said.

The Prime Minister also said that in trying to curb the drug menace, emphasis should be given to cultural values and religious teachings.

"We should inculcate values like respect for elders

and good manners among the young.

"We should also reject those western values which are in conflict with ours," he said.

On why there was increase in drug abuse, Dr Mahathir said this was because of the changes in lifestyle and culture.

"In the old days, youths were more controlled and were more influenced by their own culture and advice of their parents.

"Now, youths are given more freedom and exposed to numerous foreign cultural influences. They do not readily accept their parents' advice," he said.

He added that children should be taught of the dangers posed by drugs and parents should ensure that their children did not mix with bad company.