

U E198 AAE
 MAHATHIR-DADAH
 BM

BUTTERWORTH, JUNE 26 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA CANNOT HAVE A COMPROMISING ATTITUDE BUT HAS TO BE FIRM IN EFFORTS TO FIGHT THE DADAH SCOURGE, ~~DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD~~, SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER WARNED THAT ANYONE WHO WENT AGAINST MALAYSIAN DADAH LAWS HAD TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES AS PROVIDED FOR BY THE LAW OF THE COUNTRY.

+WE CANNOT CONSIDER SKIN COLOUR, PHILOSOPHY OR ANY OTHER MATTER IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST THIS EVIL,+ HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE DURING A VISIT TO THE +INSAF DIRI+ DADAH REHABILITATION CENTRE IN BUKIT MERTAJAM.

MALAYSIA WOULD NOT BE APOLOGETIC FOR ITS STIFF DADAH LAWS WHICH WERE AIMED AT PROTECTING MALAYSIA AND ITS PEOPLE, HE SAID.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE REACTION FROM AUSTRALIA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASE OF TWO AUSTRALIANS WHO WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR DADAH TRAFFICKING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS INFORMED THAT AUSTRALIA WAS SATISFIED WITH THE TREATMENT ACCORDED THE TWO AND THAT IT RESPECTED MALAYSIAN LAWS. -- MORE

1409MST 26 06 86

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U E203 AAE
 MAHATHIR-DADAH 2 BUTTERWORTH

+I WAS IN PERTH RECENTLY, AND THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER (BOB HAWKE) TELEPHONED ME, BUT HE DID NOT RAISE THIS MATTER,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

KEVIN JOHN BARLOW, 28, AND BRIAN GEOFFREY CHAMBERS, 29, WERE FOUND GUILTY OF TRAFFICKING IN 179GM OF HEROIN AT THE BAYAN LEPAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN 1983. THE PULAU PINANG PARDONS BOARD LAST SATURDAY REJECTED THEIR APPEALS FOR CLEMENCY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT NO ONE COULD SAY THAT ALTHOUGH THEY COMMITTED AN OFFENCE IN MALAYSIA, THEY SHOULD BE PENALISED ACCORDING TO THE LAWS IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

+AS IN THE BMF (BUMIPUTRA MALAYSIA FINANCE) CASE, WE HAD TO ALLOW A FOREIGN COUNTRY TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST OUR PEOPLE BECAUSE WE COULD NOT APPLY MALAYSIAN LAWS AGAINST THEM,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

1423MST 26 06 86

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 MAHATHIR-DADAH 3 BUTTERWORTH

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF A FOREIGN COUNTRY COULD DETERMINE THE SENTENCE ON ITS CITIZENS WHO COMMITTED OFFENCES IN MALAYSIA, THEN MALAYSIA COULD ALSO DETERMINE THE SENTENCE FOR MALAYSIANS WHO BROKE THE LAW IN THAT COUNTRY.

HE SAID THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE REALITY THAT A CRIME COMMITTED IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY SHOULD BE JUDGED BY THE LAWS OF THAT COUNTRY AND THAT THE SAME PRINCIPLE APPLIED TO MALAYSIA.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HIT OUT AT THOSE WHO DEFENDED DADAH CRIMINALS INSTEAD OF GIVING ATTENTION TO THE SUFFERING OF DADAH ADDICTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

IT WAS VERY MUCH REGRETTED THAT THEY DID NOT WANT TO ACTIVELY HELP THE DADAH VICTIMS BUT INSTEAD GAVE PREFERENCE TO THE INTERESTS OF THE CRIMINALS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID DADAH TRAFFICKERS WERE +MURDERERS+ BECAUSE THEIR IRRESPONSIBLE AND INHUMANE ACTIONS LED TO THE DEATH OF MANY ADDICTS WHILE THOSE WHO SURVIVED WERE MERE +LIVING SKELETONS+.

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MAHATHIR-DADAH 4 BUTTERWORTH

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO HOME MINISTER, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO STRESS ON EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THE DADAH PROBLEM WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS MORE SERIOUS THAN THE COMMUNIST THREAT.

IN CONNECTION WITH THIS, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TRY TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING COUNTRIES WHERE DADAH WAS PRODUCED ILLEGALLY, TO PUT A STOP TO THE PRODUCTION OF DADAH.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIA WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH ANY COUNTRY TO COMBAT THE DADAH PROBLEM AND WOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN EFFORTS TO CHECK THE DADAH MENACE BECAUSE +THE PROBLEM CANNOT BE SOLVED BY ONE COUNTRY ALONE BUT WITH THE COOPERATION OF ALL CONCERNED+.

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY PULAU PINANG CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU, WAS BRIEFED ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DADAH REHABILITATION CENTRE BY ITS HEAD, ENCIK S.BARATHAN.

HE WAS LATER TAKEN ON A TOUR OF THE CENTRE WHICH HAS 300 INMATES.

SINCE THE CENTRE WAS ESTABLISHED 10 YEARS AGO, IT HAS REHABILITATED 1,845 OF 2,826 DADAH ADDICTS. -- BERNAMA
1513MST 26 06 86