

# Bigger role for us against dadah

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BUKIT MERTAJAM, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad envisages a more vigorous role for Malaysia in the war against the dadah menace in the international arena.

He said he would ensure that Malaysia plays a more significant part in international efforts to control, if not eradicate, the dadah menace as it could not be controlled by any single country.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Home Minister, said this when asked what his priority was as chairman of the Cabinet committee on the dadah problem.

He was talking to newsmen after visiting the da-

dah rehabilitation centre here this morning.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would work with other countries, including those from which dadah was smuggled out, in order to achieve this aim.

## Security

He said greater efforts would be made to combat the menace at home, too, especially against traffickers and pushers.

Answering another question, Dr Mahathir said the Government intended to further tighten security at entry and exit points in the country.

There were plans to increase the number of dadah rehabilitation centres but the Gov-

ernment lacked funds and suitably trained personnel at present.

Currently, only a small number of addicts can be accommodated in existing rehabilitation centres. Another 10 to 15 centres would be needed to accommodate all addicts.

Dr Mahathir said although the Government had spent a lot of money on rehabilitation, the majority of rehabilitated addicts returned to the habit on leaving these centres.

This was partly due to the negative treatment accorded them by their parents and society and partly because their old friends influenced them into taking dadah again.