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B E932 AAE
MAHATHIR-DADAH
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 1 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY CALLED FOR FURTHER INTENSIFICATION OF EFFORTS AT THE BORDERS TO CHECK THE ENTRY OF DADAH INTO MALAYSIA AS THE DRUG PROBLEM STILL REMAINED A MAJOR PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN ANTI-DADAH EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY THE POLICE AND CUSTOMS, TO DRAW UP STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES, EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR JOINTLY, TOWARDS THIS OBJECTIVE.

ANTI-DADAH TASK FORCE DIRECTOR KHAIRUDDIN IBRAHIM TOLD REPORTERS THE PRIME MINISTER MADE THE DIRECTIVES AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL'S ANTI-DADAH COMMITTEE WHICH HE CHAIRED HERE.

HE SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT MALAYSIA WOULD CONTINUE TO DO THE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE USED THE COUNTRY TO TRAFFIC IN DADAH OR TURN ITS YOUNG GENERATION INTO ADDICTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IMPRESSED UPON THE MEETING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM OF DADAH ADDICTION AND TRAFFICKING IN THE COUNTRY CURRENTLY ALTHOUGH STRINGENT MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN AND WERE STILL BEING TAKEN TO CHECK THE PROBLEM. -- MORE
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HE SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD STRESSED THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT TAKE FIRM ACTION ON THE PROBLEM NOW IT WOULD GET WORSE.

AS SUCH, HE SAID, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THE AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE ERADICATION OF THE DADAH MENACE WOULD GIVE MORE SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAD ALSO ASKED FOR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP PUBLIC ANTIPATHY TOWARDS DADAH.

ENCIK KHAIRUDDIN SAID THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN ANTI-DADAH CAMPAIGNS WOULD LOOK INTO WAYS TO ACHIEVE THIS.

HE SAID THE MEETING WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON EFFORTS BY THE CUSTOMS TO CHECK THE ENTRY OF DADAH INTO THE COUNTRY WHICH INCLUDED STATIONING NARCOTICS DETECTION DOGS AT ALOR SETAR, PULAU PINANG, TOMPAT AND JOHOR BAHRU RECENTLY. -- MORE
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MAHATHIR-DADAH 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE STATIONING OF THE DOGS WAS AN ON-GOING PROCESS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT HAD 20 SUCH DOGS AND HAD SENT 13 OFFICERS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR A DOG HANDLING COURSE. THEY WOULD BE RETURNING WITH 13 DOGS ON COMPLETION OF THEIR COURSE.

ANOTHER 15 OFFICERS WOULD BE SENT NEXT YEAR AND THEY WOULD BE RETURNING WITH A SIMILAR NUMBER OF DOGS.

HE SAID ALL THE CUSTOMS MANPOWER WOULD BE MOBILISED IN EFFORTS TO CHECK THE ENTRY OF DADAH INTO THE COUNTRY.

ON MALAYSIA'S ANTI-DADAH EFFORTS AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, HE SAID MANY OF THE BIG NATIONS HAD STARTED TO RECOGNISE THE DADAH SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND HAD GIVEN COMMITMENT AND MORE POSITIVE SUPPORT TO THE QUESTION OF CONTROL AND ERADICATION.

ENCIK KHAIRUDDIN SAID MALAYSIA HAD AGREED TO BE A PARTY TO THE CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES 1971 AND THE INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION WOULD BE HANDED OVER TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL SOON. -- MORE
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STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION IN THE ERADICATION AND CONTROL OF ABUSE OF PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, HE ADDED.

ENCIK KHAIRUDDIN SAID MALAYSIA HAD SUCCEEDED IN GETTING US\$900,000 (\$234,000) IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UNFDAC) AND THE AID AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED SOON.

HE ALSO SAID MALAYSIA HAD BEEN ASKED BY THE UNITED NATIONS DIVISION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS TO HOST THE EXPERTS GROUP MEETING ON RECOMMENDED METHODS FOR ANALYSIS OF CANNABIS AND AMPHETAMINES IN OCTOBER.

LOCAL EXPERTS WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE MEETING AS CURRENTLY THERE WERE NO KNOWN METHODS FOR THE DETECTION OF THE INTERNAL EFFECTS OF THESE SUBSTANCES ON ADDICTS, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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