

B E335 AAE
PARLIAMENT-DADAH

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86
KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 8 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA'S HANGING OF TWO CONVICTED DRUG TRAFFICKERS FROM AUSTRALIA RECENTLY HAD NOT IMPAIRED ITS IMAGE BUT INSTEAD MET WITH FAVOURABLE RESPONSE BY THE MAJORITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THE DEWAN RAKYAT WAS TOLD TODAY.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE COUNTRY'S IMAGE WAS NOT AFFECTED BY THE WIDE PUBLICITY GIVEN THE CASE AS FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS ON THE CASE WERE ON THE WHOLE ACCURATE AND OBJECTIVE.

IN FACT, MANY NEWSPAPERS SUPPORTED THE HANGING AND UNDERSTOOD THE NECESSITY FOR MALAYSIA TO IMPOSE THE DEATH SENTENCE FOR SUCH OFFENCES, HE TOLD ENCIK MUTANG TAGAL (BN-BUKIT MAS) DURING QUESTION TIME.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE PEOPLE AND PARLIAMENT HAD DETERMINED HANGING TO BE THE PUNISHMENT FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS IN VIEW OF THE DANGER OF DRUG ADDICTION TO SOCIETY.

DUE TO THE WIDE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO THE PENALTY FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THIS COUNTRY BY THE PAPERS, TV AND OTHER MEDIA INCLUDING ANNOUNCEMENTS ON BOARD MAS FLIGHTS, FOREIGN NATIONALS COULD NOT PLEAD IGNORANCE OF THE LAW, HE SAID. -- MORE
1650MST 08 10 86

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B E351 AAE
PARLIAMENT-DADAH 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PLAN TO REVIEW THE ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEATH PENALTY AS IT WAS AN IMPORTANT DETERRENT TO DRUG OFFENDERS.

HE SAID DRUG TRAFFICKERS WERE +MASS MURDERERS+ WHOSE METHOD OF KILLING PEOPLE WAS MORE TERRIBLE THAN ORDINARY KILLERS BECAUSE THEIR VICTIMS SUFFERED FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE THEY DIED.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING THE PEOPLE FROM DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM ENCIK KARPAL SINGH (DAP-JELUTONG), DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT WHEN HE WAS IN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN RECENTLY, MANY PEOPLE HAD EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR MALAYSIA'S ACTION IN HANGING DRUG TRAFFICKERS.

HE SAID HE HAD ALSO RECENTLY RECEIVED A LETTER FROM AN INTELLECTUAL FROM AUSTRALIA VOICING SUPPORT FOR MALAYSIA'S HANGING OF THE TWO TRAFFICKERS FROM THAT COUNTRY. -- MORE
1749MST 08 10 86

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B E352 AAE
PARLIAMENT-DADAH 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA DID NOT NEED TO HAVE PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY ON THE PENALTY FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS BECAUSE IT HAD THE RIGHT TO IMPOSE ITS OWN LAWS.

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS BY ENCIK KARPAL SINGH AND ENCIK P.PATTO (DAP-IPOH), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT PLAN TO AMEND ARTICLE 48 (1)(E) OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION TO COVER OFFENCES COMMITTED OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. --
BERNAMA

1750MST 08 10 86