

D736

B E535 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRISON
BM

MARANG, APRIL 17⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO FIND WAYS TO BEEF UP SECURITY IN PRISONS AS PART OF EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY.

EXPRESSING REGRET OVER RECENT INCIDENTS OF PRISON BREAK-OUT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE RISING CRIME RATE WOULD NOT BE CHECKED IF PRISONERS CONTINUED TO ESCAPE FROM JAIL.

HE HOPED THERE WOULD NOT BE A RECURRENCE OF THE PUDU JAIL AFFAIR IN WHICH A GROUP OF PRISONERS TOOK A LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST AND SKIN SPECIALIST HOSTAGE AND THE INCIDENT IN KUANTAN PRISON WHERE A WOMAN MAGISTRATE WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE BY A GROUP OF PRISONERS.

(IN BOTH THE INCIDENTS, SECURITY PERSONNEL RESCUED THE HOSTAGES).

OPENING THE MARANG OPEN PRISON HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WAS ONE OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH GAVE SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THE WELFARE OF PRISONERS, INCLUDING PROVIDING THEM WITH TRAINING TO HELP THEM SEEK AN HONEST LIVING UPON THEIR RELEASE. -- MORE
2058MST 17 04 87

D746

B E539 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRISON 2 MARANG

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID PRISONERS SHOULD APPRECIATE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO HELP THEM GET RE-ABSORBED INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF SOCIETY AND SHOULD NOT POSE A PROBLEM TO THE AUTHORITIES.

HE ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGED THE CONSTRUCTION OF OPEN PRISONS IN THE COUNTRY AS THEY WERE BUILT BY THE PRISONERS THEMSELVES AND THUS SAVED ON GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE.

ON DADAH ABUSE, HE SAID MALAYSIA'S TOUGH LAWS, INCLUDING THE IMPOSITION OF THE DEATH SENTENCE FOR DADAH TRAFFICKERS UNDER SECTION 39B OF THE DANGEROUS DRUG ACT, HAD HELPED REDUCE DADAH-RELATED OFFENCES.

+POSSIBLY THIS IS BECAUSE THOSE INVOLVED IN THIS CRIME ARE SCARED OF THE DEATH SENTENCE WHICH THEY MAY FACE IF CONVICTED,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT FELT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR DADAH TRAFFICKERS ALONE WAS NOT ENOUGH TO FIGHT THE DADAH SCOURGE.

IT WOULD SOON ENACT LAWS TO CONFISCATE THE ASSETS OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN DADAH TRAFFICKING. -- MORE
2120MST 17 04 87

B E544 AAE
MAHATHIR-PRISON 3 MARANG

UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, DADAH TRAFFICKERS WHO ESCAPED THE DEATH SENTENCE COULD HAVE THEIR ASSETS SEIZED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS COMPELLED TO TIGHTEN LAWS TO CHECK CRIME, WHOSE RATE HAD INCREASED, PARTICULARLY DURING THIS RECESSIONARY PERIOD.

+IF THE LAWS ARE NOT TIGHTENED, CRIMINALS WILL CONTINUE WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES AND EVEN ENRICH THEMSELVES,+ HE SAID.

EARLIER, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS DATUK IBRAHIM MOHAMAD SAID THE COST OF BUILDING THE MARANG OPEN PRISON WAS SCALED DOWN TO \$18 MILLION FROM THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF \$33 MILLION THROUGH THE USE OF CONVICT MANPOWER.

HE SAID THE OTHER OPEN PRISON IN THE COUNTRY WAS AT PENGKALAN CHEPA IN KELANTAN.

THE PRISONS DEPARTMENT WAS ~~ALSO~~ USING CONVICT MANPOWER TO BUILD QUARTERS FOR STAFF IN PAHANG, NEGERI SEMBILAN AND JOHOR. -- BERNAMA
2138MST 17 04 87