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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 30 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA WILL CONTINUE WITH ITS EFFORTS TO FIGHT DRUG ABUSE AT INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS, AND EXPECTS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TOWARDS THIS END TO BE INCREASED, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE RECENT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN VIENNA MARKED AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS ACHIEVING THIS GOAL.

THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE IN WHICH 138 NATIONS HAD VOICED SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE WOULD HELP MALAYSIA SUCCEED IN ERADICATING THE MENACE, HE TOLD REPORTERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO HAD PRESIDED OVER THE CONFERENCE, SAID THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE MANY COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD VIEWED THE DRUG PROBLEM COULD BE SEEN FROM THE PARTICIPATION OF 82 MINISTERS AS DELEGATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS-SPONSORED CONFERENCE.

THEIR PARTICIPATION ALSO REFLECTED THE SUCCESS OF THE BIGGEST CONFERENCE EVER HELD ON DRUGS, HE ADDED. -- MORE  
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THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO CHAIRED THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE, SAID OVERWHELMING SUPPORT WAS RECEIVED FROM ALL THE 138 COUNTRIES DURING THE DISCUSSION ON TWO WORKING PAPERS, ONE ON THE GUIDELINES ON WAYS OF COMBATING THE DRUG MENACE AND THE OTHER ON THE STAND OR DECLARATION AGAINST DRUGS.

HE SAID THAT WITH SUPPORT FOR THE TWO PAPERS, DESPITE SOME DIFFERENCE OF OPINIONS, +GENERALLY WE HAVE ACHIEVED SUCCESS AND THIS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS.+

+WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE 138 NATIONS, IT ALSO MEANS THAT COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS IN THE WORLD IN FIGHTING DRUGS WILL INCREASE,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID MANY OF THE PRINCIPLES RELATED TO THE DRUG PROBLEM, INCLUDING THE ONE ON THE SEIZING OF THE ASSETS OF THOSE INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING, WERE ACCEPTED.

HE ADDED THAT WITH THE GUIDELINES ON THE MEASURES TO TAKE IN FIGHTING DRUGS, THE WORLD WOULD SEE CLOSER COOPERATION IN EFFORTS TO FIGHT THE PROBLEM. -- MORE

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ASKED WHETHER A TREND HAD EMERGED AMONG THE COUNTRIES AT THE CONFERENCE TO INSTITUTE LAWS TO ENABLE THE SEIZURE OF ASSETS OF DRUG CRIMINALS IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THEIR OWN, HE SAID THE MATTER WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

+THE MATTER IS STILL UNDER STUDY BECAUSE IT HAS FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS AND WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT IT IS EFFECTIVE (IF IMPLEMENTED),+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE CONFERENCE DID NOT MAKE ANY DECISION ON WHETHER SIMILAR CONFERENCES WOULD BE HELD PERIODICALLY, ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT IT BE HELD ONCE EVERY TWO OR FIVE YEARS. THE DECISION WOULD BE LEFT TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

ON HIS POST AS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, HE SAID IT ENDED WITH THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE BUT IF HE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FOLLOW-UP MEASURES TAKEN, HE COULD ASK FOR THE INFORMATION FROM THE SECRETARIAT.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE WERE NO PROVISIONS FOR MONITORING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES TO FIGHT DRUGS REACHED AT THE CONFERENCE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA WAS PREPARED TO SHARE ITS EXPERIENCES ON THE REHABILITATION OF DRUG ADDICTS WITH INTERESTED NATIONS.

-- BERNAMA  
1531MST 30 06 87