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(P)
KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 9⁸⁷ -- ALL QUARTERS MUST JOIN FORCES TO FIGHT DADAH SIMILAR TO THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COMMUNIST TERRORIST THREAT TO THE COUNTRY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID DADAH ABUSE WAS THE COUNTRY'S NUMBER ONE ENEMY BECAUSE IT POSED AN EXTREME DANGER TO THE COUNTRY AND WAS EXTENSIVE IN THE DAMAGE IT CAUSED.

THE PEOPLE MUST THEREFORE BE AWARE OF THE DADAH THREAT AND THEIR AWARENESS MUST NOT BE PASSIVE BUT ACTIVE, HE SAID AT THE PEMADAM NIGHT '87 FUND-RAISING CONCERT AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE.

THE PEOPLE COULD SHOW THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN ANTI-DADAH EFFORTS BY TAKING PART IN PEMADAM-ORGANISED ACTIVITIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE COUNTRY NEEDED MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY SOCIETY IN COMBATING THE DADAH SCOURGE, ADDING THAT VARIOUS GROUPS HAD ASSISTED IN THESE EFFORTS. -- MORE

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HE SAID THE COUNTRY'S HOPE OF ERADICATING THE DADAH MENACE WAS BRIGHT IF THE PEOPLE CONTINUED THEIR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT.

HOWEVER, BECAUSE CERTAIN SECTIONS IN SOCIETY INCLUDING PARENTS, TEACHERS AND HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAD STILL NOT FULLY COMPREHENDED THE DADAH THREAT, PEMADAM MUST MAKE MORE EFFORTS TO OPEN THEIR EYES APART FROM PROVIDING FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON NECESSARY CASES.

HE SAID MANY CURED DADAH ADDICTS LATER RETURNED TO THEIR HABIT AFTER MIXING WITH THEIR OLD +FRIENDS+ AND HE HOPED ALL PEMADAM BRANCHES WOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM.

HE COMMENDED PEMADAM'S EFFORTS AGAINST DADAH ABUSE BUT SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE MALAYSIA WAS KNOWN FOR ITS DADAH PROBLEM.

+WE DO NOT WANT TO BE THE COUNTRY WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF ADDICTS BUT IF WE COMPARE THE NUMBER OF ADDICTS HERE WITH THOSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES, IT IS RATHER HIGH,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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HE SAID EUROPE, FOR EXAMPLE, DID NOT HAVE A SERIOUS DRUG PROBLEM ALTHOUGH THE COUNTRIES THERE WERE MORE LIBERAL IN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS DADAH TRAFFICKING.

DEPUTY HOME MINISTER DATUK MEGAT JUNID MEGAT AYUB, WHO IS PEMADAM PRESIDENT, MEANWHILE REMINDED STATE PEMADAM BRANCHES TO GET THE APPROVAL OF HEADQUARTERS FIRST FOR CARRYING OUT FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE CONCERT BY BRITISH POP GROUP +THE HOLLIES+ WAS INFORMATION MINISTER DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT. -- BERNAMA

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