

U E567 AAE
MAHATHIR-DADAH

88 P
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 14 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED COUNTRIES FACING DADAH ABUSE OR ILLICIT TRAFFICKING PROBLEMS NOT TO SLACKEN IN THEIR RESOLVE TO PRODUCE A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT TO DEAL WITH +DRUG BARONS+.

+LET US ACT RESPONSIVELY AND DECISIVELY TO DENY SAFE HAVENS FOR TRAFFICKERS AND THEIR UNLAWFULLY ACQUIRED ASSETS AND PROPERTIES,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING THE EAST ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE HERE.

THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE, JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC BUREAU AND THE BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS MATTERS, IS ATTENDED BY 70 AMERICAN DRUG ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS BASED IN 13 ASIAN COUNTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING (ICDAIT), SAID DADAH TRAFFICKERS WERE GETTING BRAVER AND AS SUCH IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR COUNTRIES HAVING THE PROBLEM TO TAKE PROMPT AND DECISIVE ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE DADAH ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING FROM WITHIN THEIR MIDST.

+FOR THE CAMPAIGN TO BE REALLY SUCCESSFUL, IT WILL REQUIRE GLOBAL ACTION AND THE COOPERATION OF ALL COUNTRIES TO COORDINATE A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE THIS DEADLY MENACE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-DADAH 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S SPEECH WAS DELIVERED BY DEPUTY HOME MINISTER DATUK MEGAT JUNID MEGAT AYUB.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ALL COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO CLOSE RANKS AND WORK TOGETHER BECAUSE THE WAR AGAINST DADAH HAD TO BE A TOTAL WAR.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID SUBSEQUENT TO THE ICDAIT, HELD IN VIENNA LAST JUNE, MANY COUNTRIES WERE BECOMING MORE SERIOUS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE PRODUCTION, SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR DADAH AS WELL AS TO CURB ILLICIT TRAFFICKING, BOTH AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.

HE SAID ICDAIT MIGHT CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A UNITED NATIONS FORCE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN THE ERADICATION OR DESTRUCTION OF CROPS SUCH AS POPPY, COCA AND CANNABIS.

THE FORCE COULD ALSO ASSIST PRODUCING COUNTRIES STRENGTHEN POLICING AND IN THE ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES IN CROP SUBSTITUTION TO PREVENT REPLANTING.

+ONLY WITH DETERMINATION CAN WE SUCCEED IN CROP ERADICATION WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN SUPPLY REDUCTION,+ HE SAID. -- MORE
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U E572 AAE
MAHATHIR-DADAH 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN THIS REGION, CROSS BORDER PROBLEMS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO CONTROL PRODUCTION, MANUFACTURING AND TRAFFICKING OF OPIATES AND ITS DERIVATIVES.

THE US GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, WAS ALSO FACING SIMILAR PROBLEMS AND WAS SEEKING NEW FORMS OF COOPERATION WITH AND AMONG BORDERING COUNTRIES IN PRODUCING AREAS.

THE STRENGTHENING OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES IN THE SUPPRESSION OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN DADAH AND OTHER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES THROUGH LAND-LOCKED CONTIGUOUS BORDERS MIGHT ALSO TAKE THE FORM OF +HOT PURSUITS+, HE SAID.

SUCH COUNTRIES, WHEN CONTACTED FOR ASSISTANCE IN HOT PURSUITS, COULD RENDER ASSISTANCE WITHOUT DELAY AND IN AN EXPEDITIOUS MANNER.

IN MALAYSIA, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, THE WAR AGAINST HEROIN BEGAN IN THE EARLY 1970S AND THE AGGRESSIVE ANTI-DADAH EFFORTS EVER SINCE HAD RESULTED IN A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ADDICTS AS WELL IN THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN NATIONALS APPREHENDED IN THE COUNTRY FOR DADAH TRAFFICKING.

+EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT US THAT IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY COUNTER THE DADAH PROBLEM, ACTION MUST BE TAKEN IN A COORDINATED AND INTEGRATED MANNER,+ HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP HAD TO WORK IN TANDEM WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE

1204MST 14 03 88

U E573 AAE
MAHATHIR-DADAH 4 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THERE HAD TO BE A CLEAR DEFINITION OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG AND BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND THE COMMUNITY.

+DIFFERING VALUES AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS DADAH SHOULD NOT DIVERT US FROM PURSUING A TOUGH POLICY ON ADDICTION AND TRAFFICKING,+ HE SAID.

THE MALAYSIAN PARLIAMENT IS DELIBERATING A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE FORFEITURE OF INSTRUMENTALITIES, PROCEEDS AND PROPERTIES DERIVED FROM ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF DADAH AS WELL AS A COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME FOR PROVIDING LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO REQUESTING COUNTRIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ANOTHER MEASURE THAT HAD PROVED SUCCESSFUL IN MALAYSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, WAS THE DEPRIVATION OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, PASSPORTS AND PASSES OF SUSPECTED OR CONVICTED DADAH TRAFFICKERS.

ON THE MEETING, HE SAID, IT WOULD CERTAINLY STRENGTHEN EXISTING EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE DADAH MENACE INTERNATIONALLY.

HE SAID MALAYSIA AND THE UNITED STATES HAD FOR SOME YEARS NOW WORKED VERY CLOSELY IN THE DADAH FIELD BOTH AT BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL LEVELS. -- BERNAMA

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