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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 18 (BERNAMA) -- MANY MORE COUNTRIES RECOGNISE AND AGREE WITH THE SENTENCES AGAINST DADAH OFFENDERS IMPOSED BY MALAYSIA, INCLUDING THE MANDATORY DEATH SENTENCE FOR TRAFFICKERS, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THAT NEARLY EVERY GOVERNMENT LEADER WHOM HE MET AGREED WITH MALAYSIA'S LAWS AGAINST DADAH AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN IMPLEMENTING THEM.

REPLYING TO HAJI BUJANG ULIS (INOPT-SIMUNJAN) IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT, HE SAID SO FAR MAURITIUS AND SRI LANKA HAD EMULATED MALAYSIA IN THIS RESPECT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT REGARD DRINKING LIQUOR AND DADAH TAKING AS THE SAME.

TO A QUESTION FROM ENCIK LEE LAM THYE (DAP-BUKIT BINTANG), THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SEVERAL COUNTRIES EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MALAYSIAN DADAH LAWS BUT DID NOT INTRODUCE THEM OUT OF FEAR THEY MIGHT BE OPPOSED BY THE ACTIVIST GROUP AND PRESS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE DADAH LAWS HAD HELPED CHECK DADAH ABUSE AND REDUCED THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES IN MALAYSIA. -- MORE 1731HST 18 10 88

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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+EVEN THE UNITED STATES WHICH SPENDS MILLIONS OF RINGGIT AND USES AIRCRAFT EQUIPPED WITH RADAR IS UNABLE TO REDUCE DADAH-RELATED CASES,+ HE SAID.

+IN FACT, THE USE OF DADAH IN THE UNITED STATES HAS GONE UP SO HIGH THAT THERE ARE ALREADY PEOPLE ASKING FOR IT TO BE LEGITIMISED,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE NUMBER OF ADDICTS IN MALAYSIA DROPPED FROM 14,624 IN 1983 TO 7,596 LAST YEAR SINCE THE NATIONAL ANTI-DADAH CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED IN 1983.

HE SAID STERN AND AGGRESSIVE ACTION BY THE AUTHORITIES HAD RESULTED IN THE REDUCTION OF SUPPLY OF HEROIN IN THE MARKET. THE PRICE OF HEROIN HAD SHOT UP AND ITS PURITY HAD BEEN REDUCED.

+INTERNATIONAL DADAH SYNDICATES HAVE BEGUN TO AVOID USING MALAYSIA AS A +TRANSIT+ COUNTRY,+ HE SAID. -- MORE 1806HST 18 10 88

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PARLIAMENT-MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT 160 SUSPECTED DADAH ADDICTS WERE ARRESTED DURING AN OPERATION HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR IN JULY.

SOME 101 OF THEM WERE CONFIRMED ADDICTS AND HAD BEEN PLACED IN DADAH REHABILITATION CENTRES.

FOLLOWING THE OPERATION, THE NUMBER OF SUSPECTED DADAH ADDICTS AT PUBLIC PLACES HAD BEEN REDUCED, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 1813HST 18 10 88