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MAHATHIR-DADAH

KOTA KINABALU, JUNE 21 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAYS SOCIETY SHOULD CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS FORMER DADAH ADDICTS BY GIVING THEM A CHANGE TO START A NEW LIFE.

+IN THIS WAY, EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE DADAH MENACE WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL,+ HE SAID IN HIS MESSAGE IN THE SOUVENIR PROGRAMME FOR PEMADAM'S 14TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD HERE ON SATURDAY.

HE SAID EVERY MEMBER OF SOCIETY COULD NOT RUN AWAY FROM THIS RESPONSIBILITY BECAUSE IF DADAH ADDICTION CONTINUED TO SPREAD THE UNPLEASANT CONSEQUENCES WOULD HAVE TO BE BORNE BY ALL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID FORMER DADAH ADDICTS RETURNED TO THE HABIT BECAUSE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THEY DID NOT HAVE A PLACE TO FIT INTO IN SOCIETY.

+THE NUMBER OF DADAH ADDICTS IS SURE TO DROP IF THOSE WHO ARE REHABILITATED ARE ACCEPTED BACK BY SOCIETY AND GIVEN A CHANCE TO BECOME USEFUL PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE

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HE HOPED THE PEMADAM GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD CONTINUE TO GET THE CO-OPERATION OF ALL PARTIES TO FURTHER STEP UP ITS ACTIVITIES IN COMBATING THE DADAH MENACE.

PEMADAM PRESIDENT DATUK MEGAT JUNID MEGAT AYOB, IN HIS MESSAGE, SAID SOCIETY MUST BE SERIOUS IN FIGHTING THE DADAH MENACE WHICH WAS A DISEASE, ESPECIALLY AMONG TEENAGERS.

ABOUT 660 DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS WILL ARRIVE HERE TOMORROW FOR THE ASSEMBLY.

THEY WILL VISIT PLACES OF INTEREST LIKE TAMAN KINABALU, PULAU MANUKAN AND THE NEARBY ISLANDS, WISMA MUIS, AND THE MUSEUM ON FRIDAY.

CHIEF MINISTER DATUK SERI JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN WILL OPEN THE ASSEMBLY, WHICH WILL SEE ELECTIONS FOR THE POSTS OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS AND AUDITORS. -- BERNAMA

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