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MAHATHIR - DERMATOLOGY

(EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE AFTER 10.30PM TODAY)

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 19 (BERNAMA) -- MORE DERMATOLOGISTS ARE NEEDED TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR SKIN CARE IN THE COUNTRY AND ALSO TO DEVELOP THE FIELD FURTHER, PRIME MINISTER/DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT.

HE SAID ABOUT NINE PERCENT OF HOSPITAL OUTPATIENTS HAD SKIN PROBLEMS AND THE DEMAND FOR SKIN CARE SERVICE WAS HIGH.

THE STAGGERING NUMBER OF CHEMICALS AND COSMETICS FLOODING THE MARKET EACH YEAR HAD RESULTED IN AN INCREASING NUMBER OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES AND CONTACT DERMATITIS DUE TO THE BLATANT USE OF SUCH PRODUCTS WITHOUT PROPER CONTROL, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE 9TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF DERMATOLOGY HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CALLED ON THE COUNTRY'S SPECIALISTS TO GUIDE AND ENCOURAGE YOUNG DOCTORS TO PURSUE A CAREER IN DERMATOLOGY NOT ONLY BECAUSE THE COUNTRY NEEDED THEM BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT COULD BE AS INTERESTING AND EXCITING AS ANY OTHER FIELD IN MEDICINE. -- MORE

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HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALSO IDENTIFIED SEVERAL NEW SERVICES IN DERMATOLOGY TO BE DEVELOPED, SUCH AS DERMATOPATHOLOGY AND PHOTOBIOLOGY, TO ENSURE MORE EFFECTIVE SKIN CARE FOR THE PEOPLE.

+IN OUR SEARCH FOR NEW FRONTIERS TO EXPLORE, WE ALSO NEED TO STRENGTHEN AND INTENSIFY OUR PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE PROGRAMMES, ESPECIALLY FOR AIDS, + HE ADDED,

IN MALAYSIA, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN SOME MEASURES TO CHECK AND ELIMINATE AIDS AND NEW MEASURES WOULD BE CONSIDERED IF THEY WERE DEEMED NECESSARY! HE SAID. -- BERNAMA

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