

MAHATHIR-DADAH

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KUALA LUMPUR, JAN 19 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMMAD HAS CALLED ON EVERY MALAYSIAN TO **GIVE SERIOUS COMMITMENT AND ATTENTION TOWARDS ANTI-DADAH ABUSE EFFORTS.**

HE ALSO SAID COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS SHOULD HAVE THEIR OWN PROGRAMMES FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE EMPLOYEES⁹ WARNING THEM OF THE DANGER OF **DADAH** ABUSE AND ADDICTION.

+WE NEED FIRM COMMITMENT FROM EVERY MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF PROGRAMMES TO ERADICATE **DADAH** ABUSE AND **ADDICTION**,+ HE SAID AT THE +MALAM SEKALUNG **BUDI1990**+, ORGANISED BY **PEMADAM**, IN APPRECIATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR'S PARTICIPATION IN ANTI-DADAH PROGRAMME AT THE SHANGRI-LA HOTEL HERE TONIGHT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MALAYSIANS SHOULD 'GIVE THEIR COMMITMENTS TO ANTI-DADAH EFFORTS SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH LED TO MALAYSIA'S SUCCESS IN HOSTING SEA GAMES AND COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (**CHOGM**) LAST YEAR.

HE SAID SUCH COMMITMENT WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE THOSE HOOKED ON **DADAH** ARE +**USELESS**+ TO SOCIETY.-- MORE.

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS PEMADAM NATIONAL **PATRON**, DESCRIBED **DADAH** ADDICTS AS THE +**LIVING** DEAD+.

WHILE ADMITTING THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST **DADAH** ABUSE AND ADDICTION WAS A TOUGH **TASK**, HE WAS CONFIDENT **WITH GREATER** COMMITMENT AND DETERMINED EFFORTS BY EVERYONE THE NUMBER OF THOSE HOOKED ON **DADAH** COULD BE EVENTUALLY REDUCED.

HE SAID THERE ARE ALMOST 2009000 **DADAH** ADDICTS **IN THE** COUNTRY AND THE EXISTING FACILITIES COULD ONLY ACCOMODATE ABOUT **4,000** ADDICTS FOR **DADAH** REHABILITATION TREATMENT A YEAR.

THE REHABILITATION TREATMENT INCURRED MILLIONS OF **RINGGIT** WHICH OTHERWISE COULD HAVE BEEN USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES SUCH AS COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT⁹ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE LENIENT WITH **DADAH** TRAFFICKERS EVEN THOUGH THE COUNTRY'S LAW ON MANDATORY DEATH FOR THOSE FOUND GUILTY OF SUCH **OFFENCE** RECEIVED SEVERE CRITICISMS FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES. -- MORE.

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MAHATHIR-DADAH 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE HOPED PEMADAM WOULD CONTINUE TO INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS IN FOREWARNING THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF THE DANGER OF **DADAH**.

DURING THE **FUNCTION**, DATUK **SERI** DR MAHATHIR ALSO LAUNCHED PEMADAM'S NEW FLAG AND PRESENTED CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO 73 COMPANIES FOR THEIR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO PEMADAM **IN** ITS EFFORTS TO ERADICATE **DADAH** ABUSE.

THE NEW FLAG HAS RED, YELLOW AND GREEN STRIPES IN THE BACKGROUND WITH THE PEMADAM'S LOGO IN THE FOREFRONT.

PRESENT WERE ALSO WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR **SITI** HASMAH MOHD **ALI**, DEPUTY HOME MINISTER DATUK **MEGAT** JUNID **MEGATAYOB**, AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI **JUNID**, CULTURE AND TOURISM **MINISTER** DATUK' SABBARUDDIN **CHIK** AND **WELFARE** SERIVCES MINISTER DATUK MUSTAFFA MOHAMED. -- BERNAMA.