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Mahathir-Aids

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MELAKA, Sept 4 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned that the government will mete out maximum punishment on anyone caught bringing prostitutes into the country, especially those suffering from Aids.

+I wish to warn those involved in bringing in these people that they are doing an injustice to the people of this country, + the Prime Minister told a press conference after chairing a Cabinet meeting here.

He said Malaysians were not the source of Aids as the disease had been brought into the country by infected prostitutes from neighbouring countries.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government would amend the existing laws to provide for heavier sentences if necessary.

+I openly say that prostitutes from neighbouring countries are the ones who brought in Aids. A few of them have been caught and tested positive but, as is usual, this could be only the tip of the iceberg, + he added. -- more

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Mahathir-Aids 2 (last) Melaka

He said the Cabinet viewed the spread of Aids and dengue fever in the country seriously.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir reminded the people of the dangers of Aids as the disease would destroy its victims' immune system and kill them.

The people should stay clear of activities that could expose them to Aids as those suffering from the disease might spread it to their family members, he said.

The Prime Minister said dengue fever was spreading even in urban areas because the people did not bother to get rid of empty containers which collected water and provided a breeding ground for aedes mosquitoes, the carriers of dengue fever.

Although the local and health authorities were taking steps to get rid of the aedes mosquitoes, the fight against dengue would not be successful if the people did not keep their compounds clean, he added.

He urged the people to practise the spirit of good neighbourliness in helping to keep their environment clean.

The government feared that dengue fever could affect the tourist industry if foreign visitors were to fall prey to it, he said. -- Bernama

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