

GOVT TO CRACK DOWN ON PIMPS TO CHECK AIDS

MALACCA, Wed. — The Government will deal severely with pimps and procurers who bring prostitutes carrying AIDS into the country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned today.

He said existing laws to check the spread of communicable diseases might be amended to impose harsh penalties on such offenders.

"These procurers are guilty of committing cruelty upon the people. They should be punished in the

severest way possible," he said after a Cabinet meeting at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel.

The Prime Minister said the Government was concerned over the increasing number of AIDS and regarded the matter as "serious."

He said many of the cases had been traced to foreign prostitutes who worked here.

"We have identified several and arrested them but the carriers traced so far are still small in num-

ber. There may be more," Dr Mahathir added.

He advised Malaysians to steer clear from activities which could expose them to AIDS.

He said there was a danger of the disease spreading rapidly in the country as a result of these activities.

"Not only will victims suffer but they can spread it to their family members," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the people should realise that there was no cure for

AIDS and victims could die quickly after their immune systems were destroyed.

The Government, he said, was equally concerned over the rise in dengue fever cases, particularly in urban areas.

"The people should prevent the disease by eradicating places where the Aedes mosquitoes breed."

He said the people should not wait for the local authorities and the Health Department to kill the mosquitoes.