

Warning not to import AIDS-infected whores

MS - 5 SEP 1991

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MALACCA, Wed. — The Government will take severe action against people who bring AIDS-carrying prostitutes into the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said if it was necessary the Government would amend existing legislation to increase penalties for such activities.

"Recently, prostitutes from a neighbouring country who were caught by the police were found to have AIDS. There may be more of them in the country.

"I would like to warn those who bring prostitutes having AIDS into the country that they are threatening the lives of Malaysians. If they are caught the Government will impose the most severe penalties," he said after chairing the weekly Cabinet meeting.

He added that the Govern-

ment viewed the matter seriously and did not want the disease to spread in the country.

Dr Mahathir also advised Malaysians to realise the dangers of AIDS since the disease destroys people's immune system and exposes them to other diseases.

He said those who had AIDS would also expose their family members to it.

Urging Malaysians to stay away from activities which might expose them to AIDS,

he said people should realise that there was no cure for the disease and those who contract it were doomed to an early death.

The Prime Minister also urged Malaysians to be aware of the spread of dengue fever which has been on the increase lately.

He said while Government agencies and local authorities continued activities such as fogging, the people should ensure there were no containers which could trap water and breed

aedes mosquitoes.

He said Malaysia managed to wipe out the malaria threat by taking steps to clear out breeding grounds for mosquitoes and hoped that the threat from dengue fever would be similarly controlled.

"The Government fears that if tourists were to get the disease, the image of the country may be affected. Everyone should play his part in taking steps to stop the breeding of the aedes mosquito," he said.