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Mahathir-crime

MAHATHIR WANTS EARNEST EFFORTS IN GLOBAL CRIME-WAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12⁹³ (Bernama) -- The global war against crossborder crimes and illicit drug trafficking needs genuine and determined efforts by all countries, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today. (P)

The speed of modern transport and communication, coupled with criminal ingenuity, make accessibility to the markets and avoidance of detection much easier, he said.

He said modern technology had made it possible for offenders to move criminal operations swiftly across frontiers and take advantage of the differences in laws, their enforcement and their jurisdictions.

+No single law enforcement agency from a single country can respond adequately and effectively to this new challenge,+ he said stressing the need for integrated efforts by national and regional law enforcers, prosecutors and judiciaries.

Dr Mahathir was addressing delegates from the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation in conjunction with the inauguration of the Malaysian Crime Prevention Foundation (MCPF) at the Crown Princess Hotel here. -- more

▼12/01/15-17MST

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Dr Mahathir said as the world entered the last decade of the 20th century, commercial and fraud-related crimes were becoming more sophisticated due to the rapidly-developing computer and telecommunication technology.

+Like the drug trade, they are increasingly transnational in character. Thus, international cooperation in this area must be equally pursued,+ he said.

In a world of increasing crime, particularly heinous and violent crimes, as was so evident in some of the developed countries, Dr Mahathir was however pleased with the integrated approach taken towards crime prevention in Malaysia.

This was premised on the government's recognition of the need to involve all ministries and people, resulting in a relatively low rate of reported crime.

+By the standard set by Interpol, Malaysia averages not much more than 70,000 index crime a year.

+By the standard set by the United Nations Crime Commission, Malaysia averages only 100,000 reported incidents of crime yearly in a population of 18 million people with a strong element of immigrant labour and illegal immigrants,+ said Dr Mahathir. -- more

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However, he said, Malaysia was not satisfied with the rates and must strive to protect the society from any form of crime, getting all the people involved.

+Towards this end, we need to inculcate strong moral and ethical values in our people right from their childhood,+ he said.

He said the mere imposition of the standards of the so-called advanced countries need not necessarily yield good results.

+In any case the crime records of advanced countries do not seem to speak well of the effectiveness of their standards.

+You must therefore forgive us if at times we feel the need to question the motive behind some of the concerted efforts by the western world to force us to adopt its values and standards.

+We suspect, and we have reason to suspect from the events which have taken place and the many examples available that some of the efforts are not all that altruistic,+ he said. -- more

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He said the MCPF was established with the aims of contributing towards crime prevention and the treatment of victims and offenders to achieve the ultimate goal of peace and stability in the country and the region.

This is to be done through survey, research, education and other programmes on the basis of solidarity and mutual cooperation among persons interested in or involved with the criminal justice system particularly those in Asian countries.

+The Foundation hopefully will promote public awareness of and participation in crime prevention in tandem with the coordinated efforts of government and private organisations interested or involved in crime prevention and the criminal justice system,+ he said.

He hoped the Foundation will work closely with other institutions of the United Nations and sister organisations elsewhere. -- Bernama

▼12/01/15-25MST