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Mahathir-Dadah

DEATH SENTENCE FOR DADAH TRAFFICKING WILL NOT BE REVOKED

KUALA LUMPUR, May 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the government does not propose to revoke the mandatory death sentence for dadah trafficking which is said to be ineffective.

He said several parties had complained to him that despite the heavy sentence more people were getting hooked on dadah.

"The sentence is appropriate and should not be stopped as a punishment for drug traffickers who are considered as murderers," he said at a Pemadam dinner here.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Pemadam patron, said that if there was no such punishment, probably there would be more dadah traffickers.

He said that as a result of this immoral activity, 200,000 young people were involved in dadah addiction and millions of ringgit were spent on dadah.

Hence, dadah traffickers should not be given sympathy because the drug victims were living skeletons who caused trouble for their country, parents and families, he said.

He said various measures were also implemented to check dadah addiction including providing moral education, strengthening the spirit and raising children with strong faith that could keep them from dadah.

He said the habit of wanting to try out new things like dadah should be discarded.

They could try out other things but not dadah, he added.

He also thanked the philanthropists who donated a total of about RM1.4 million tonight.

Dr Mahathir later told reporters that Parti Melayu Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah might rejoin Umno.

"Yes, we discussed the matter," he said when asked to comment on his meeting with Tengku Razaleigh last night.

On his meeting with Kelantan Menteri Besar Kelantan Datuk Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat at his office here this afternoon, he said they discussed business.

The prime minister, however, declined to comment on Tan Sri Osman Aroff's claim that he was asked to step down as Kedah Menteri Besar to make way for Kuah assemblyman and former Agriculture Minister Datuk Sanusi Junid. -- BERNAMA

HT JK