

11 JUL 1996

Mahathir-Dadah

LAWS TO BE STREAMLINED TO CHECK DADAH ABUSE

MELAKA, July 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today laws pertaining to dadah abuse and administration of pusat serenti will be further streamlined to check dadah addiction.

Commenting on the report of the Anti Dadah Task Force, the Prime Minister said the increase in the number of dadah addicts in the country was not very high.

"The increase does not show a big jump as our laws are tight...but they should be implemented effectively," he said.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at a news conference after accompanying the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar to the 173rd meeting of the Conference of Rulers at A' Famosa Resort in Alor Gajah.

The Prime Minister said the government would not relax the laws and would continue to firmly implement them including the imposition of the mandatory death penalty.

"If not dadah traffickers and smugglers will become brave," he said.

On the problem of rehabilitating dadah addicts, he said the government had set up the National Dadah Advisory Council whose duties include streamlining the administration of pusat serenti which faced many problems.

The council is chaired by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Chairman is Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob.

Dr Mahathir said firm action would be taken to check riots and demonstrations by the trainees at dadah rehab centres.

He said there was much weakness and many problems in the area of administration at pusat serenti.

"There are pusat serenti which allowed the trainees to go out and come in as they pleased...purportedly to do work outside but actually to go out and get dadah supply and then come back," the Prime Minister said.

He said the government would provide additional funds to provide more places to rehabilitate dadah addicts. -- BERNAMA

MOZ AAM