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Dadah

PM WANTS FIRMER ACTION TO CURB DADAH INFLOW

KUALA LUMPUR, June 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has asked the police to tighten checks at the border to prevent the entry of dadah into the country, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob said today.

Dr Mahathir, in his address at the National Dadah Council's first meeting today, also asked the police to form a special body to probe how dadah could be brought into the country.

"He wants the probe to establish who the culprits are and from where the dadah came," Megat Junid told Bernama after attending the meeting.

Dr Mahathir, who is Prime Minister and Home Minister, said parents and the society should help the government to eradicate the dadah menace, he said.

Last month the Narcotics Department said that most of the dadah found in the country was smuggled from neighbouring countries.

The Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, was formed to fight drugs abuse and it has representatives of bodies involved in the enforcement, treatment, rehabilitation, prevention, information and educational aspects.

Dr Mahathir also directed all government agencies and ministries to adhere to decisions made by the Council.

He said there was a need to retain the mandatory death sentence for dadah traffickers convicted under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act, Megat Junid said.

He said the Prime Minister wanted the administration at all dadah rehabilitation centres to be improved so that HIV-positive inmates could be segregated.

Megat Junid expressed concern that the number of dadah addicts in Kelantan had risen by 142 percent last year.

He said the Council asked the National Dadah Agency to prepare a working paper for comprehensive discussion on the dadah problem in the country.

The working paper would be distributed to all members of the Council before its next meeting on July 1.

He said there would be a programme to train a pool of speakers from among teachers, ulamas, military and police personnel, and former addicts so that they would be available to give talks on dadah when required.

Megat Junid said the Council also proposed that inmates of dadah rehabilitation centres be given lessons on law and religion as part of efforts to prevent rioting at such centres.

At its next meeting, the Council would discuss the proposal to amend the laws on punishment for government workers like prison warders, police and customs staff involved in dadah use and trafficking, he said. --

BERNAMA

AZH ZUL YBY