

CURB THAT URGE

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Do not pawn your life for some
brief pleasure, advises Dr M

JITRA, Fri: Malaysians holidaying abroad have been advised to control their urge and not get involved in unhealthy activities.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said they can visit foreign countries for shopping or sightseeing but they should not get involved with women who can pass on the AIDS virus to them.

"I very much regret that Malaysians are going to Haadyai (Thailand) merely to seek pleasure. I ask our people . . . if you go overseas, do not do that bad thing. There are many other ways for entertainment.

"Love your life . . . and those with families, think of your wife and children. Do not pawn your life for pleasure that will last only a little while," he said at a get-together with Barisan Nasional leaders at the Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency.

Mahathir criticised certain newspapers for identifying the 47-year-old housewife who was given HIV-infected blood from the Jitra Hospital last month.

Her name should not have been disclosed to the public as this can have an adverse effect on her, he said.

"It has not been confirmed that she is HIV-infected, we cannot expose the person as such."

The blood that the woman received was from a 29-year-old married man who admitted that he has been making regular trips to Thailand since he was 17.

Mahathir said in Malaysian society, many may be infected with HIV but their identities need not be made public.

He also hit out at the opposition for trying to exploit the Jitra case to serve its own political interests.

"Politicians have come and tried to influence the woman and file for damages for up to RM100 million. These people's aim is merely to fish for votes," he said. - Bernama