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Mahathir-Liver

80 PER CENT OF LIVER CANCER PATIENTS SEEK TREATMENT LATE

PETALING JAYA, July 23 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight said 80 per cent of liver cancer patients are very late in seeking treatment.

This is because they are not aware that they are suffering from the ailment as early symptoms cannot be detected for some cases while the others do not get the right advice or ignore it.

The Malaysian Liver Foundation can help in creating public awareness and take necessary preventive measures, he said in the souvenir book in conjunction with the foundation's charity dinner here.

Dr Mahathir, who is also patron of the foundation, said medical experts and volunteers could work together in tackling the disease through the foundation.

Liver cancer, he said, was among the 10 most reported ailments in the country.

The foundation could educate patients and members of the public on the disease, said the Prime Minister.

In addition, it could assist researchers in carrying out research and understand the liver cancer mechanism and introduce diagnostic and innovative methods as well as effective treatment strategies.

Speaking at the dinner here, Dr Mahathir called on Malaysians to help the foundation so that it could assist the needy.

Dr Mahathir was also surprised that the charity dinner paid tribute to him as the patron of the foundation and the Prime Minister.

The foundation president, Datuk Dr Ismail Merican said the foundation paid tribute for his contribution to the country and the foundation.

Also present were the Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng and National Unity and Social Development Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman.

-- BERNAMA

JM AT AO