

MAHATHIR - DUMP

84  
BANGI, JUNE 5 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS TO SHELVE THE RADIO ACTIVE WASTE DUMPING GROUND PROJECT IN PAPAN NEAR IPOH OR MOVE IT TO ANOTHER SITE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT AS FAR AS THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED THE DECISION ON SITE WAS MADE AFTER EXPERTS FROM PUSPATI CARRIED OUT A SURVEY AND RESEARCH IN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA).

HE WAS COMMENTING ON THE REPORTED PROTEST BY PAPAN RESIDENTS AGAINST THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DITCH IN THE AREA FOR THE DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE FROM THE ASIAN RARE EARTH BDN. BHD. INLAHAT.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER VISITING THE TUN ISMAIL ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE (PUSPATI) HERE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD LAID DOWN STRICT RULES AND RESTRICTIONS TO ENSURE THE DUMPING OF THE WASTE WOULD NOT POSE ANY DANGER TO THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THOSE LIVING NEAR THE AREA.

\*BUT NO ONE CAN GIVE A 100 PERCENT ASSURANCE OF SAFETY, HE SAID, -- MORE 1815/MK

ZCZC N094 (F/S)  
MAHATHIR - DUMP 2 BANGI

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN ALL NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE THAT THE PROPOSED DUMP WOULD NOT ENDANGER PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA.

AS FAR AS THE GOVERNMENT WAS CONCERNED THE PROJECT WOULD PROCEED AND HE DID NOT THINK OTHER STATES WOULD PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE SITE. HE SAID IT WOULD ALSO BE UNWISE AND DANGEROUS TO DUMP THE RADIOACTIVE WASTE INTO THE SEA.

COMMENTING ON THE REPORT THAT PERAK MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI RAMLI NGAH TALIB HAD ASSURED THAT IAEA EXPERTS WOULD BE CALLED IN TO ENSURE THE PAPAN DUMP MEETS INTERNATIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE PEOPLE HAD TO DEPEND ON THE VIEWS OF FOREIGNERS WHEN MALAYSIA HAD ITS OWN EXPERTS IN THE FIELD.

HE REITERATED THAT THE RECOMMENDATION ON THE DUMPING SITE WERE MADE BY PUSPATI EXPERTS AFTER CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH IAEA. -- , BERNAMA 1821/MK