

PM: Overcrowding a major problem

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, commenting on the Pudu Prison drama today, said: "I never thought this would happen...."

He then chipped in philosophically: "But there is always the first time. And when we look back, we ask ourselves why we did not do this and that...

as they say, after the horses have left the stable, we close the gate."

The Prime Minister was responding to questions at a Press conference after the Umno Supreme Council meeting.

In a more serious vein, he said overcrowding in prisons is a major problem. It makes guarding the inmates harder.

Too many prisoners

are being kept in one place because the project to build a new prison is not completed.

Asked whether the Government would increase the allocation for prisons to ease overcrowding, he said: "There is a possibility we will reduce the allocation because we don't have the money."

However, he said that prisons in Malaysia were in a far better condition than those in other developing countries.

"In fact, ours are better compared with even those in developed countries."

Dr Mahathir said he had received a report on the incident from the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Haniff Omar.