

U GE 16-05 00172 EG845

aae

Mahathir-crackers ''''

hm

KUALA LUMPUR, May 16 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia can do without a firecrackers and fireworks industry.

The government would study whether such an industry was desirable in future, he said.

+I think we don't need such an industry in our country. Even without it, our industrial growth will not suffer,+ he said!

+We will study whether to revoke the permit or stop the industry altogether. But if we still need it, we shall impose stringent control so that explosions and fire such as at the Bright Sparklers fireworks factory in Sungai Buloh will not recur,+ he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking to reporters after visiting the site of the incident in which at least 24 people perished and more than 100 others were injured.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was abroad on holiday when the tragedy occurred on May 7. He returned home yesterday evening.-- more

♥16/05/18-18MST

aae

Mahathir-crackers 2 Kuala Lumpur ''''

He said that perhaps the government should only allow the manufacture of explosives for the Malaysian Armed Forces.

The Sungai Buloh tragedy, he added, was a lesson for the government and the Malaysian society.-- More

♥16/05/18-40MST

R GE 16-05 00128

aae

Mahathir-crackers 3 Kuala Lumpur ''''

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said even industrialised countries preferred not to have fireworks and firecrackers industries because of the hazards involved and would rather import the products instead.

He reminded Malaysian entrepreneurs that before they adopt any new technology locally they should be particularly mindful of its implications on the country.

The Prime Minister said the Sungai Buloh tragedy should not be politicised because it was a sensitive issue involving deaths.

He criticised political parties which exploited such incidents at the expense of efforts designed for the people's own good.

These include exploitation of issues such as resettlement of hawkers and location of dump-sites for toxic wastes, he said.-- more

♥16/05/19-57MST

