

# PM: Projects should go on if they comply with report

S - 4 OCT 1991

By M. SHANMUGAM and NORHASIYATI TAHARIN

KUALA LUMPUR: The development near Zoo Negara should go on as long as it complies with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report by the relevant authorities, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said evaluations of the impact caused to the environment by those not assigned to do such a study could not be taken as a guide.

"Sometimes people who

are unhappy or with other interest in mind may use the environment issue for their purpose.

"That is why it is better to study carefully the EIA report done by qualified people as it is most important in determining the effects of the project," Dr Mahathir told reporters after the ground-breaking ceremony for the Kuala Lumpur Tower.

The Sultan of Selangor, Zoo Negara and Malaysia's Worldwide Fund for Nature officials have protested against the development of 152ha near the zoo.

They said the development of condominiums and a golf course would threaten the environment, including polluting Sungai Kemensah which was the source of water to the animals in the zoo.

The Selangor Government had said Thursday that it would allow the projects to go on, and recommend changes if necessary.

Dr Mahathir said the laws clearly stated that any development project could not go ahead if it did not comply with the EIA.

● TURN TO PAGE 2

## Tower not a waste of funds says PM

● FROM PAGE ONE

On the construction of the \$250 million Kuala Lumpur Tower, Dr Mahathir said there were bound to be people who would describe the project as a waste of public funds.

"If we listen to them, there would not be any development at all," he said.

The Prime Minister assured the public that there would not be any indiscriminate chopping of old trees at Bukit Nanas where the 420m-high tower will be built.

He also said a study was done to ensure the tower would not affect air traffic.

Dr Mahathir said the tower was important to enhance Malaysia's telecommunication capabilities and enable it to introduce high speed communications.

"Foreign firms are not interested in having their headquarters in Malaysia because of the lack of telecommunication facilities.

"Moreover, based on experiences of similar towers in other countries, it has been found that the usage increases with modern technology," he said.

Besides being used for telecommunication and transmission purposes, the tower will also house several recreational facilities like restaurants and will be a tourist attraction.

The Kuala Lumpur Tower will be the third highest in the world after the CN Tower (553m) in Toronto, and the Ostankino (532m) in Moscow.