

# Elements out to embarrass the nation, says PM

By Salful Azhar Abdullah

ALOR STAR, Thurs. — Certain environmentalists are instigating Pulau Langkawi residents to obstruct development projects on the island to hamper the island's growth and embarrass the country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said these people were using the residents to obstruct the construction of accommodation facilities on the island to disrupt preparations for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (Lima '91).

The Prime Minister said: "Some residents have been influenced by these people and have over-reacted by filing a suit against the Government in attempts to thwart the exhibition by halting the construction of hotels.

"The Government knows who these environmentalists are and their activities. They frequented the island

to influence the residents so that development projects in Langkawi will fail and the people will continue to live in the backward age."

Dr Mahathir said this to newsmen on his arrival at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport here for the launching of the "Malaysia Prihatin" (Caring Malaysia) programme in Jitra.

He was commenting on the court injunction obtained by a landowner in Padang Matsirat restraining Woodhouse Sdn Bhd from entering and constructing buildings on her land until the disposal of the suit.

The Government will file a suit to set aside the injunction obtained by the landowner restraining the contractor constructing a hotel from entering and erecting buildings on her land.

The contractor undertaking the project will abide by the court order and has

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stopped work on the land belonging to the owner.

However, the buildings will not be demolished as the order only restrains the contractor from continuing the work.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir inspected the site for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition (Lima '91) scheduled for Nov 11 to 15.

"These environmentalists want to embarrass the country because when visitors arrive for the exhibition and find inadequate accommodation facilities on the island, they will look down on us.

"We are very sad that we have people who show no responsibility in upholding the nation's dignity."

Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government had invested more than \$500 million for the development of Langkawi without having to ask the islanders to pay a single sen in tax by according a free-port status to the island.

"The residents and landowners in Langkawi have benefited from the development projects in terms of the increase in the price of land.

"There are residents who blackmail the Government by taking advantage of our democratic system by threatening not to vote for the Government if we do not bow to their demands.

"They should have been grateful and not resort to unreasonable action to blackmail the Government."

It is because of the Government that the people in Langkawi are enjoying a better living standard.

Dr Mahathir said the airshow had received good response from maritime and aviation companies in the United States, the Soviet Union, France, Great Britain, Australia and Japan.