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WEST INSINCERE ABOUT RESOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, SAYS PM

Mahathir - environment 92

KUALA LUMPUR, April 5 (Bernama) Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he was not surprised by the introduction of a bill by a senator in the United States calling for reduction of timber felling in Sarawak.

He said this only went to show the attitude of a superpower which assumed that it could interfere in the domestic affairs of any country.

+In the future, we will come across superpowers which assume that they are the policeman of the world, and if they think someone is wrong they will take action,+ he told reporters at his Hari Raya +open house+ at +Seri Perdana+ here.

calling for reduction of the annual rate of timber cutting in Sarawak by two-thirds and upholding the land rights and human rights of all its indigenous peoples.

+What can we do if they want to introduce a bill in their country? It is their right,+ Dr Mahathir said when asked how Malaysia would react. -- more

▼05/04/16-18MST

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Mahathir - environment 2 Kuala Lumpur

On the failure of the preparatory meeting of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in New York to arrive at any agreement, Dr Mahathir said this was expected because Western and industrialised countries were insincere about resolving environmental problems.

Therefore, he had yet to decide whether Malaysia would attend the UNCED scheduled for Rio de Janeiro in Brazil in June. He said that at the moment he did not see any reason for Malaysia to attend the meeting.

Dr Mahathir said countries which could not compete with Malaysia were using the reason of environmental problems as an economic ploy.

He said some oil producing countries had begun to say that cultivation of oil palm, an important commodity for Malaysia, was polluting the environment.

+But the fact is that plastic produced from palm oil is bio-degradable while plastic from petroleum is not,+ he said. -- more

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Mahathir - environment 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Without identifying these oil producing countries, Dr Mahathir said they feared competition from plastic produced from palm oil and claimed that cultivation of oil palm brought adverse implications.

On the task force to counter the anti-tropical wood campaign, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would continue to provide the actual picture of the situation. -- Bernama

▼05/04/16-21MST