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GOVERNMENT WILL STUDY WHETHER FIREWORKS FACTORIES ARE NEEDED

Mahathir-fireworks

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HULU LANGAT, July 23⁹² (Bernama) -- The government will study whether fireworks factories are needed in the country; Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said there was still a labour shortage in the country and lots of job opportunities could be created in other manufacturing industries.

+I think we must study (the matter) because there are other types of factories that, can create jobs and provide returns for investors, + he told reporters when asked to comment on the explosion at the Matan Maju Sdn. Bhd. fireworks factory in Beranang, near Kajang, yesterday which killed a worker and seriously injured four others.

Asked whether the government would take steps to close fireworks factories in the country, he said the government must be careful in taking such action so that no party suffered any loss.

+We do not want anyone to lose, be they workers or bosses, + he added.

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▼23/07/14-53MST

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Mahathir-fireworks 2 (last)Hulu Langat

Dr. Mahathir said that after the fire at the Bright Sparklers fireworks factory in Sungai Buloh last year, the government stopped allowing new fireworks factories to open in the country.

What were left now were the existing factories, he added.

Expressing sorrow over yesterday's incident, he said an investigation would be conducted to avoid a recurrence.

Replying to questions on the Pergau hydro-electric dam project in Kelantan, he said construction work could resume and he hoped the disruptions would become a thing of the past.

He did not want any more disruptions so that the project could proceed more speedily without escalating costs in the interest of the people.

He also hoped the project would be completed on schedule.

Meanwhile, in a special interview with Radio Tiga Shah Alam at its temporary studio at the site for the launching of the +Kampung Ku+ programme in Selangor, Dr Mahathir said the state was capable of achieving developed status by the year 2005, ahead of the country and other states.

This was because of Selangor's proximity to the national capital and its facilities and airport, which attracted many investors. -- Bernama

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