

STUDY ON FIREWORKS

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HULU LANGAT: The Government will study to see if there is a need for fireworks factories in the country.

Datuk Seri ~~Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~, who said this yesterday, also advised fireworks factory operators to invest in other industries which could give

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PM: Govt to study if such factories are needed

them better returns.

Asked if the Government would close fireworks factories, the Prime Minister said it would consider such action only if no party would suffer losses.

"We do not want anyone to lose, be they workers or bosses," he said.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on

the explosions at the **Matan Maju Sdn Bhd** fireworks factory in Beranang, near Kajang, on Wednesday.

A woman worker was killed and four others were injured in the incident which occurred at about 4.45pm. There were between 200 and 300 workers at the factory at that time.

Expressing sorrow over the inci-

dent, Dr Mahathir said an investigation would be conducted to avoid a recurrence.

He said the Government had not allowed any new fireworks factories to be set up after the fire at the Bright Sparklers plant in Sungai Buloh last year.

Meanwhile, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib said the state government would decide whether to close down the **Matan Maju** factory.

"We will study the reports from the various government agencies and decide whether the **Matan Maju** factory should cease operations.

"We will also see whether the company can go into other forms of business instead of the making fireworks," he told reporters after a meeting between the Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional division leaders in **Hulu Langat**.

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