

CNS4620

U GE 09-10 00186 EG522

aae tbe

NO PLANS YET FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY

Mahathir-nuclear%,,

BANGI, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will refrain from using nuclear energy to generate electricity so long as it can continue to use the four existing means of doing so, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

It was the current policy of the government to have electricity generated with the use of hydro power, gas, fuel oil and coal, he added.

+There will be no nuclear plant until we have exhausted all other methods to generate electricity,+ he told reporters after opening a special course for Bumiputera building contractors at the Malaysian Public Works Institute (Ikram) here.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on a suggestion that Malaysia build a nuclear plant to generate electricity to overcome disruption of supply on a massive scale as had happened recently.

Lightning triggered a trip and caused a disruption of electricity to almost the whole of Peninsular Malaysia on Sept 29, and it took a few days to fully restore power supply. -- more

▼09/10/14-56MST

CNS4641

U GE 09-10 00192 EG523

aae t.be

Mahathir-nuclear 2 Bangi

He said disruption in the supply of electricity could also occur even when power was generated by a nuclear plant.

He cited his personal experience in New York when there was a power blackout when he arrived in that city- and again when he was about to leave.

New York and northeastern United States was without electricity then, he said, explaining how he had to use the stairs to descend to the ground floor for meals and then walk back again to one of the higher floors where he was staying.

In BUTTERWORTH, Energy, Telecommunications and Post Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the Cabinet, at its weekly meeting last Wednesday, decided against the setting up of a nuclear plant to generate electricity.

The Cabinet felt that use of nuclear energy brought with it problems, such as the disposal of nuclear waste which the developed countries continued to face even long after they had started operating nuclear plants, he told a news conference after visiting the Prai power station near here today. -- more

▼09/10/15-16MST

CNS4645

U GE 09-10 00064 EG524

aae tbe

Mahathir-nuclear 3 (last) Bangi

Samy Vellu said the government also felt, that there would be difficulty in obtaining adequate supply of nuclear fuel for any such plant;

On the Prai power station, he said the 450-megawatt capacity station would switch its fuel from oil to gas and install more modern machinery. -- Bernama

▼09/10/15-16MST