

CNS2975

R GE 12-11 00190 EA722

aae tbe

Mahathir r-paper

STEP UP RECYCLING OF PAPER CALL BY MANATWIR

bm

92 (P)  
KUALA LANGAT, Nov 12, (Bernama) -- 'Recycling of waste paper on a commercial basis should be stepped up in line with Malaysia's' commitment towards preservation of the environment, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Resides reducing the need for more rubbish dumps, recycling would save waste disposal cost, estimated at MR6 million annually, he added.

Speaking when he officially opened the first phase and simultaneously launched the second phase of Genting Sanyen (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd., a mul tigrade paper mill complex here, he said local industrialists in the sector should consolidate efforts to increase efficiency in waste paper collection.

+It will be a great loss if something valuable like paper is just thrown away, + he added, expressing the hope that 'they would integrate efforts with the setting up of the paper mill' project.

The complex, comprising six mills, could meet the country's need of industrial grade brown paper of 220,000 tonnes annually based on its production capacity of 250,000 tonnes a year. -- more

▼12/11/15-06MST

11 GE 12-11 00190 EA723

aae tbe

Mahathir-paper 2 Ruala Langat

It would also check the outflow of foreign exchange of MR165 million a year and result in the recycling of more than 300,000 tonnes of various types of waste paper.

The complex is the biggest being developed in the region with investment in the first phase alone totalling RM400 million. The second phase, a duplex board mill, was expected to cost another MR100 million.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia now imported all its paper requirements and paper goods as it 'did not have an integrated paper-based industry.'

The country's paper imports rose from MR516 million in 1983 to MR1,586 million last year -- a three-fold increase over a period of eight years, he added.

The greater part of the imports last year were printing and writing paper valued at MR371 million and newsprint worth MR316 million while inputs for corrugating medium, linear board and kraft linear totalled MR247 million.

'Dr Mahathir said Genting Group's diversification from resort and hotel development within and outside the country to paper milling was timely.' -- more

▼12/11/15-22MST

Mahathir-paper 3 (last). Kuala Langat

+Its involvement in the manufacture of paper reflects its sensitivity towards the country's long term need for various types of paper and the vast opportunities available in the sector, especially in recycling,+ he added.

He said the country's per capita use of paper was estimated at 28 kilograms compared with the world average of 38 kilograms.

In countries like the United States and Japan, the figure was between 100 and 150 kilograms.

Dated on this, it was evident, the industry had a very bright potential for expansion in the country, he added.

Dr Mahathir said; however, the shortage of waste paper supply in the next five years might affect the progress of the paper industry and lead to dependence on imported waste paper.

+As such, I call on local industrialists to venture into the paper industry to upgrade efficiency in waste paper collection and recycling,+ he added.

Dr Mahathir later toured the factory to see its operations. -- Bernama

♥12/11/15-33MST