

# PM: Recycle more waste to cut costs

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KUALA LANGAT: Waste recycling should be enhanced to reduce the need for dump sites and cut costs in waste disposal, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday. He said about \$6 million was being spent annually to maintain waste disposal operations and the sum could be saved via recycling programmes.

The Prime Minister said recycling projects embarked upon now were timely because Malaysia was committed towards issues related to the environment.

He urged entrepreneurs, especially those in the paper industry, to team up and upgrade their operations in waste-paper collection for recycling purposes.

"This is because of the 250 such companies, more than 40 of them handled over 100 tonnes of used paper a month.

"I think the number of such companies should be reduced via consolidation to ensure efficiency in the collection of waste paper," said Dr Mahathir.

A team-up by smaller companies was necessary because there might be a

shortage of waste paper in five years and result in the import of such waste, he said at the opening of the Genting Sanyen's phase one project and launching the \$1 billion phase two of the paper mill complex here.

Also present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib and Genting Group chairman Tan Sri Lim Goh Tong.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's paper use per capita was 28kg compared with 38kg of the world's per capita.

"The annual recovery of waste paper should be upgraded from the present 50 per cent, which is unsatisfactory," he said, adding that about 193,000 tonnes of paper waste was dumped annually.

The high use of paper was due to the increase in the number of readers, wages and people.

Dr Mahathir said the setting up of the Genting Sanyen paper mill would fulfil the nation's need for industrial grade paper, save \$165 million in foreign exchange a year and reuse of about 300,000 tonnes of waste paper.