

Merdeka Stadium must go, says PM

ALOR STAR: Merdeka Stadium will have to make way eventually to ease traffic congestion in Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"The way I see it, Merdeka Stadium will have to go sooner or later. To save cost, it is better now than later," he said after opening the RM12 million Jitra district hospital.

He said the Government could still build a monument and display pictures commemorating the declaration of independence if the stadium was torn down.

He said funds were also needed to build a much bigger stadium for the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games.

The proposal to demolish the Merdeka Stadium is one of three options before the Games' organisers

There are plans to give the Merdeka Stadium complex to United Engineers (M) Bhd in exchange for its undertaking to build the Bukit Jalil sports complex where the Games would be held.

The sports complex has been scaled down from its original ~~RM650 million to~~ RM41.5 million, and UEM wants the stadium complex, estimated at RM500 million to build a RM1 billion convention, hotel and apartment centre.