

CNS5331

U GE 22-05 00179 EB923

mes eng

Mahathir - pollution

CLOSING DOWN FACTORIES IS NOT THE WAY TO ARREST POLLUTION, MAHATHIR

bm

KUANTAN, May 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir

Mohamad said today simply closing down factories is not the way to resolve the pollution problem.

Other ways would have to be found to overcome pollution, he told reporters after a closed door meeting with Pahang Umno leaders here.

If factories were to be closed down for this purpose, then most of the industries in the country would have to wind up, he said.

"The electronic industry is said to be not good because it gives out toxic waste. The method of overcoming this problem is to treat the waste and make it harmless and not close down the factory," he said.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on a newspaper report that Syarikat Song Cheng Enterprises (M) Sdn Bhd, in Pekan, which reared eel for the world market, had polluted the environment. -- more

AWA AAM

♥22/05/15-30MST

CNS5344

U GE 22-05 00149 EB924

mes eng

Mahathir - pollution 2 Kuantan

The Taiwan based company had so far invested RM150 million and had built ponds on 200 hectares of land to rear eel and other aquaculture creatures.

Dr Mahathir said if there was environment problem the appropriate way would be to rectify it.

"Let's not do something that will cause foreign investors not to come here," he said.

Dr Mahathir criticised environment lovers who he said knew only how to talk and find fault.

They should have the courage to consider the interests of employment and the environment.

"An environment that is pollution free will have no meaning at all to the poor," he said.

Pahang with its large land surface should strive to benefit from it and go for agro-based industries, he added. -- more

AWA AAM

♥22/05/15-47MST

CNS5356

U GE 22-05 00151 EB925

mes eng

Mahathir - pollution 3 (last) Kuantan

Agro-based industries would not be unprofitable industries if the items produced were value added products, he said.

Turning to Sabah politics, Dr Mahathir said that if the laws required the Federal Minister of Sabah Affairs Tun Datu Haji Mustapha bin Datu Harun to vacate his state seat then it would be vacated.

"The Barisan Nasional is ready for a by-election in Usukan which is now represented by Tun Mustapha," he said.

The Prime Minister also confirmed that he had received Cuepacs' letter on bonus claims for 1992.

The Government would have to study the letter, he added.

"Their excuse is that the country's income had increased and its economy is good and other such reasons and so we will have to study this," he said.

- Bernama

AWA AAM

▼22/05/16-01MST