

Independent investigation being carried out into Genting landslide

# PM: Action will be taken

**By S. Jayakrishnan  
and  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The Government will take action against anyone found responsible for the landslide at a road leading to Genting Highlands which claimed 20 lives and injured 22 people last Friday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today an independent investigation into the incident was being carried out.

"We are not accusing anyone but instead we are conducting an indepth and independent study to determine the causes (of the landslides).

"And if there is anyone who is at fault, we will take action against them," he said at a Press conference at Bilik Bunga Raya VVIP lounge at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang after his arrival from Milan, Italy.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked by reporters for his comments on the lessons to be learnt from the tragedy and the finger pointing by certain quarters.

The Prime Minister, who was accompanied by his

"It is better for us to study why these incidents occur as conditions in our country may be different from that of other countries.

"We have heavy rain, lots of trees and the way we build our roads must be based on local conditions."

Asked if a report on the landslide incident would be submitted to the Cabinet at its weekly meeting tomorrow, he said it would be and even if it wasn't he would ask for the report.

Dr Mahathir said he knew what had occurred as he had been briefed by Anwar.

Asked whether there would be a review of the proposed highland road project linking Genting Highlands, Cameron Highlands and Fraser's Hill in view of the tragedy, Dr Mahathir said the project had not yet been approved.

The proposed 240km highway project to link the highlands was announced in 1988 and was estimated to cost up to RM600 million.

The then Works Minister Datuk Leo Moggie announced in December last year that the Government would go ahead with the construction of the highway as it was confident that the project would not affect the highlands.

wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Has-mah Mohamed Ali, was greeted on arrival by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding, Ministers in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Abang Mustapha and Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub and senior officials.

Dr Mahathir had been away since June 14 when he made a two-day working visit to Paris and a similar visit to Albania from June 23, besides taking a short vacation in Europe.

Dr Mahathir said there were lessons to be drawn from the landslide tragedy to ensure that such incidents did not recur.

He also said that despite the high standards set for the carrying out of projects in the country, problems still occurred such as the landslides.

Dr Mahathir said there was a proposal to build the road and the authorities had listened to the views of those who wanted to take part.

"We listened to their explanations, the way they wanted to build the road and we had specified all the conditions which, of course, stressed on safety.

"However, as I have said although we do our best, sometimes tragedies occur."

Dr Mahathir said despite all precautions being taken based on science and technology sometimes tragedies occurred as this was all in God's hands.

"We cannot say with 100 per cent certainty that accidents will not happen."

He cited as an example the sinking of the Titanic whose builders had claimed the ship was unsinkable.

Dr Mahathir also expressed concern about the safety aspects of local buildings in the wake of the col-

PLEASE TURN TO  
PAGE 5, COL 5

## Malaysians reminded of Highland Towers disaster

FROM PAGE ONE

lapse of a shopping complex in Seoul.

He said 300 people died in

the incident because the building was constructed without adherence to the rules.

Dr Mahathir said Malay-

sians should also not forget about the Highland Towers disaster.

"This is also something we should be concerned

about. I hope when we take action against anyone who is careless we get strong support from everyone including the media."