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PM-highway

PM WANTS TO SEE LESS CUTTING OF HILLS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister has suggested that more tunnels and bridges be built in hilly areas to avoid cutting hills during the construction of highways, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding said today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stressed at the Cabinet meeting today that highways should continue to be built but not by cutting hills and felling trees unnecessarily, he said.

Dr Mahathir wanted highways to be built in a manner that was more suitable for the environment, he told reporters after the ministry's post-Cabinet meeting.

He said the Prime Minister made the suggestion in the wake of Saturday's highway landslide in Gua Tempurung, near Kampar, which killed a truck attendant.

On pollution, Law said the government was prepared to give rewards to operators of merchant and fishing vessels who provided information on waste dumping in the country's waters. However, the rate and form of rewards have yet to be fixed.

He said operators of local merchant and fishing vessels assured him of their cooperation in fighting pollution in the country's waters at a dialogue here yesterday.

"They were asked to be more patriotic by acting as the eyes and ears of the government to tip off the authorities if they see foreign ships discharging polluting materials," he said.

About 30 people, including representatives of the Malaysia International Shipping Corporation (MISC) and Royal Malaysian Navy attended the dialogue. -- Bernama