

05/08/1997

PM: Nawaz didn't comment on rubbish

LANGKAWI, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today clarified that Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif did not make any comments on the rubbish along Jalan Bukit Bintang in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir said Nawaz, who returned to Islamabad yesterday after a three-day official visit to Malaysia, had praised Kuala Lumpur for being a clean city.

"Nawaz Sharif did not say it (Jalan Bukit Bintang) was dirty. He did not say it," said Dr Mahathir.

The New Straits Times reported today Dr Mahathir was concerned over the lack of consciousness among Malaysians about cleanliness. The report said Dr Mahathir had called for stern action against litterbugs after the visiting Pakistani Prime Minister commented on the rubbish along Jalan Bukit Bintang.

Dr Mahathir said Deputy Home Minister Datuk Tajol Rosli Ghazali, who was minister-in-attendance, had accompanied Nawaz to Lot 10 shopping centre and then back to the Regent Hotel on foot.

He said Tajol Rosli observed how dirty the street was and informed him (Dr Mahathir) about it.

"I don't know whether he (Nawaz) saw it. But Tajol Rosli told me that Nawaz Sharif must have seen how dirty it was.

"Nawaz Sharif did not say that it was dirty. I hope I have made it clear. I don't know how I can get these things clear.

"Everytime I say something, something else is written," he said.

What Dr Mahathir had said was: "I want to tell you that Jalan Bukit Bintang is very dirty and every night these people sit there and drink and throw cans around the place. I think we should take action against them.

"I feel ashamed because Nawaz Sharif had made a comment that Kuala Lumpur is very clean.

"He went to Lot 10 last night and later as he was walking back to his hotel he saw rubbish, like a jungle. You know, we urge people to maintain cleanliness but they still do not know how to protect our country's image."

(END)