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EVEN WHEN IN HOSPITAL, DR MAHATHIR CONCERNED ABOUT ENVIRONMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 25 (Bernama) -- Environment issues have always been close to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that even when in hospital for an ankle operation he made effort to trace the source of black smoke which he saw through the window.

From his Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Hospital bed in Cheras he contacted Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding, who was then in Sarawak, to report about the black smoke.

Relating the incident to reporters here, Law said the Prime Minister wanted to know why the black smoke was allowed into the atmosphere and asked that the matter be investigated.

Shocked by the Prime Minister's finding, Law said he directed his officers to check on the matter and they traced it to a cement grinder in Cheras.

The owner of the machine was ordered to stop operations until he repaired it so that it would not emit thick black smoke, he said.

"Don't think just because the Prime Minister is away in hospital, people can pollute the air according to their whims and fancies," Law added.

-- BERNAMA

HJ AAM