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Dr M: Duty-free period to stay

LANGKAWI, Sun. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Government cannot reduce the eligibility period for visitors to take out duty-free items from the island as it needs to generate revenue.

The Prime Minister said the people would never be satisfied even if it was reduced to 48 hours.

He was commenting on requests by local traders and travel and tour operators to reduce the period from 72 hours to 48 hours or less.

"If we reduce it to 48 hours, they will ask it to be reduced to 24 hours and eventually 12 or even six hours."

Dr Mahathir hit out at travel agents who levied exorbitant commissions.

"There is no problem if the travel agents get a reasonable commission like 10 per cent, but in some cases the agents get more profit than the operators of the business," he added.

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