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PM: Lack of maintenance culture could mar our image

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reiterated his concern over the lack of maintenance culture among the people, adding that this could lead to foreigners making wrong conclusions about Malaysians.

Dr Mahathir had conveyed his unhappiness during today's Cabinet meeting.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said Dr Mahathir had singled out the lack of maintenance at the KL International Airport Bunga Raya Complex.

"The Prime Minister was saddened by the state of the Bunga Raya complex where workers have dirtied the carpet which needs to be replaced.

"Foreign dignitaries and VVIPS's use the Bunga Raya complex when they visit this country.

"They will definitely have wrong impressions of Malaysians. This can unnecessarily put a dent on our national image," he said.

As the workers had not been careful when carrying out repair work, the carpet at the Bunga Raya complex has been stained with paint.

"Now the airport management will have to replace the carpet. Isn't it a waste of money?" he said.

Lim was speaking to reporters after visiting a worksite where two Indonesian workers were killed in an accident on Monday.

The Cabinet had directed Malaysia Airports Berhad to look into the matter.

Asked whether the Prime Minister had also spoken on the lack of maintenance culture in other parts of the airport, Lim said Dr Mahathir had brought up such matters during previous Cabinet meetings.

"There have also been complaints on the lack of maintenance previously such as insufficient signages at the KLIA. The relevant parties were then directed to do the necessary.

"Sometimes, we need not be told how we should maintain our property or public property. It should already be in us," he said. The lack of responsibility would only deteriorate the situation.

Citing an example, Lim said a clock perched atop a tower near the Subang Airport was only repaired after the Prime Minister had raised the matter himself.

Lim said the Prime Minister had also on several occasions conveyed his displeasure over how some highways were not properly maintained.

"It's not only the airport or highways...it also involves street lights not repaired, grass not cut and roads not properly maintained.

"That was why he had directed all ministers to be hands-on and resolve matters which come under their respective jurisdictions immediately," Lim said.

Proper maintenance of "any building, public place or anything else" would reflect the quality, discipline, lifestyle and the integrity of the people.

"That is why we should inculcate such characteristics in ourselves," he said. Earlier, Lim toured the project site where two Indonesian workers died and nine others were injured when a passenger/material hoisting machinery gave way and crashed onto the second floor from the sixth floor.

Preliminary investigations showed there was some element of negligence on the part of the developer. The main contractor for the condominium project is Syarikat Intriabina Sdn Bhd while Far East Land and Housing

Development Company Sdn Bhd is the developer.

"I have asked the Department of Occupational Safety and Health to review all procedures which include approving the use of such machines, its allowed design and the life span for such machines, to prevent a recurrence.

"DOSH must also conduct more frequent checks as there are 260 such machines being used in the Federal capital alone."

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