

# Dr Mahathir: Ill-treatment accusation not true

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CYBERJAYA, Fri. -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today voiced his disappointment over the accusation that Malaysia had ill-treated illegal immigrants from the Philippines staying in Sabah.

He said while the country was faced with the Sipadan hostage crisis, there were those who took the opportunity to accuse the Government of not giving proper treatment to illegal immigrants in Sabah.

"We do not do such a thing. In fact, we provide places for them to stay, but in return this (accusation) is what we get for helping them.

"Today, when we open our country to them, we have been accused as if we have not been treating them well," he said after opening the Motorola Multimedia Software Centre.

He was asked to comment on reports that Malaysia was ill-treating illegal immigrants from the Philippines and whether it would take stringent measures to stop their intrusion. On whether steps would be taken to enhance surveillance, Dr Mahathir said they would have to be looked into first.