

25 FEB 2001

MAHATHIR UNHAPPY OVER EXPENSIVE HOTEL ROOMS FOR BIG EVENTS

JOHOR BAHRU, Feb 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is unhappy with hotels which charged full room rates during big sporting events like the Formula One World Motor Racing Championship in Sepang, saying it will affect attendance.

He said some sort of levy could be considered on hotels which gained directly but did not contribute to these events.

"Hotels are the ones benefiting directly but we find them jacking up room charges to full charge but not making any contribution at all. Perhaps we may have to impose some kind of levy on them," Dr Mahathir told reporters after attending the Formula One Powerboat Malaysian Grand Prix here today.

He said for the forthcoming Malaysian Grand Prix in Sepang, hotels are already fully-booked but the rooms are expensive.

He said more people would want to visit Malaysia due to the widespread publicity from televised events like the Malaysian Grand Prix in Sepang and also the Tour de Langkawi cycling race.

Today's powerboat race here, which kicks off the world series, also attracted viewership of 500 million around the world. It was televised to 58 countries.

Many hotels here were also full because of the occasion.

-- BERNAMA

TCL RYN