

28 APR 2001

Mahathir-Floods

POOR DESIGN OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ONE OF CAUSES OF KL FLOODS, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, April 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that poor design of development projects is among the causes of the flash floods in the city.

He said that the government would need to spend large sums and deal with other problems like the squatter problem to overcome the problem of flash floods.

"The designs of development projects are not very good but it is a little late to do anything unless we are prepared to spend large sums and also tackle the squatter problem," he told reporters at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) base in Subang near here on his return from Dubai.

He was asked to comment on the flash floods in the city and its vicinity last Thursday.

Flash floods following over two hours of heavy rain caused thousands of vehicles and several main roads in the city to be submerged and the lives of two people lost.

Dr Mahathir said that even if the government intends to take various measures to overcome the flood problem, the opposition would still turn it into an issue.

"As such, even if we were to initiate anything, I am certain the opposition will raise objections and this will cause problems which can never be resolved. We seek to overcome them, but there are people who will create issues," he said.

Dr Mahathir was also asked to comment on the proposal by Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu yesterday that those dumping rubbish into rivers be imposed the jail sentence.

The prime minister said that if this were to be enforced, there would still be parties accusing the government of being inconsiderate.

"That's why...if we were to do it, they'll say how inconsiderate, these are poor people but if we do not enforce the law, we'll face problems," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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