

'Always wear

Guilty party in Grik tragedy to pay for

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KUALA LUMPUR: Safety comes first for the the prime minister, who always puts on a life jacket before taking a boat ride.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad cannot swim and always makes sure that he wears on a life jacket when he gets on a boat.

"We don't know what will happen," he said yesterday, when commenting on the boat tragedy in Grik which claimed eight lives on Monday.

He also said action may have to be taken against the party who failed to enforce the life jacket requirement in the incident in which a small boat ferrying 14 people capsized in Tasik Banding.

Initial investigation by the police revealed that the boat was overloaded and those on board did not wear life jackets.

Mahathir said boat owners must provide life jackets to their passengers who are required to wear them. The requirement was imposed a long time ago, he said.

"We have always advised people to put on their life jackets and this should be practised every time we get on a boat," he said after the ground-breaking of the proposed Bakti community centre in Bukit Kiara.

The victims were part of a 47-member group from the Nutrimerics direct-selling company attending a three-day motivational course.

The boat capsized at 2.30am when ferrying a group of participants from Kampung Pulau Cheah to

life jacket'

not enforcing ruling, says PM

Pulau Peladang, near Pulau Banding. The six survivors included the boatman who swam to safety.

Navy divers, firemen and police found all five missing bodies yesterday afternoon.

They were Abdul Karim Kadri, 30, from Km7 Kampung Katong, Jalan Permatang Pasir, Banting;

Haslizah Yusof, 31, from Taman Uda, Jalan Sultanah, Alor Star; Salwani Salleh, 28, from Batu Caves, Selangor; and Kamaruzali Mohamad, 28, from Lorong Musra, Rantau Panjang and Dr Jaya Abdul Salam, 41, from Bandar Baru Uda, Johor Baru, who was the course consultant.

The bodies were pulled up between 11am and 6pm, reports Bernama.

They were located at the scene and were brought to Grik Hospital for a post-mortem, a police spokesman said.

The body of Jaya, a lecturer at the Kolej Damansara Utama, Petaling Jaya, was

the last to be found.

"The search operation was stopped at 7pm. We will follow up with investigations into the incident," said Perak Deputy OCPD DSP Ismail Deraksi.

The bodies of three victims found on Monday were claimed by their families for burial.