

Mahathir: Better if less is said about polygamy

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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has called for a stop to public statements regarding the polygamy issue as he feels it will only fan the controversy.

The Prime Minister said it would be better if all concerned did not make too many statements until a comprehensive study was carried out on the various aspects of the issue.

"We feel that it is better if less is said about this.

"We need to discuss this matter thoroughly with those who specialise in religion and the law.

"Only then can we make a statement," he told reporters after launching the first Malaysian-made hovercraft at the Perdana Lake, near here, yesterday.

The Perlis Government had said it was relaxing the laws on polygamy to discourage Malaysian men from

crossing over to Thailand to remarry.

The Women and Family Development Ministry as well as several women's groups have criticised the move, particularly on a stipulation that stated that husbands need not get the consent of their first wife to remarry in Perlis.

Asked about his stand on the matter, Dr Mahathir said:

"The question of whether I agree, or otherwise, does not arise.

"This matter needs careful study."

On the hovercraft project, Dr Mahathir beamed after taking a short spin in the two-seater craft, saying:

"It's very interesting. Now we can be a producer of hovercraft."

The project is product of a collaboration among AF Dot Engineering Sdn Bhd (AFE), Nihon Hovercraft Corporation of Japan and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.