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Dr M raps 'compulsive complainers'

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is exasperated by the attitude of people who always complain and object to the government's policies and projects.

He told Bernama yesterday objections are raised even when the plans will benefit them in the long term.

He was speaking after returning from Monaco, which is famed for its tourism industry and has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world.

"What I found to be most interesting about the residents of Monaco ... the Formula 1 race there. As you know, in Monaco, the F1 race is held in the centre of Monte Carlo. We know the loud noise of F1 races ... but the residents do not mind.

"The reason is that it is an event which brings much benefit. Maybe not everyone, but it benefits the

tourism industry there," he said.

"Here, we are annoyed even when an aircraft flies over. We are the affluent society, so we cannot stand all this."

Mahathir said this when asked to comment on the controversy arising from the setting up of an abattoir for the slaughter of pigs in Rawang.

The locals claim that the RM30 million abattoir, set up by the state government on a 20ha site and scheduled to be operational next month, will pollute the Selangor River which is the main source of water for the state and the federal capital.

"Certainly we'll need to take specific measures. We can channel the water, treat the water ... surely they (Selangor government) must have conducted a study," Mahathir said.

He said protests and objections by the public had always hindered the implementation of projects which

could benefit the community, such as the proposed thermal solid waste incinerator in Broga.

He said the abattoir was actually an infrastructural facility to turn pig farming into a cleaner, organised and systematic industry.

Mahathir said the previous Japanese encephalitis (JE) outbreak was due to the illegal slaughter of pigs in an unclean environment.

"We definitely don't want the (recurrence of the) JE, (but) we also don't want it (abattoir) built anywhere. I don't know what is it that they want. Eventually, it (slaughter of pigs) will be carried out illegally. Then we'll be angered by it, why is there such illegal activity," he said.

Mahathir said the government would then be blamed but its plan to set up a proper pig farming facility was being opposed.