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Mahathir-Attitude

MALAYSIANS COMPLAIN ALL THE TIME, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has highlighted the attitude of Malaysians who always complain and raise objections when the government implements a policy or project whereas it will benefit them in the long term.

Dr Mahathir, who returned today from Monaco, said that when he was in the principality which is famed for its tourism industry and is among countries in the world with the highest per capita income, he found the attitude of its residents to be remarkable.

"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 told a media conference on arrival at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) station in Subang near here today.

The Prime Minister was earlier in London where he spoke Monday at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London before proceeding to Sweden for a three-day visit. He addressed the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Thursday and stopped over in Monaco Friday on his way home.

"Over here, we are annoyed even when an aircraft flies over. We are the affluent society, so we cannot stand all this," he said in jest.

Dr Mahathir conveyed his observation of the attitude of the residents of Monaco when asked to comment on the controversy arising from the setting up of an abattoir for the slaughter of pigs in Rawang.

The local residents claim that the RM30 million abattoir, set up by the Selangor government at 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 also 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," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that protests and objections by the public had always hindered the implementation of projects which could actually be of benefit to the community like the proposed thermal solid waste disposal incinerator in Broga.

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

The Prime Minister said that the previous Japanese Encephalitis (JE) outbreak in the country caused by the Nipah virus 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 it, why is there such illegal activity," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the government would then be blamed but the government's plan to set up a proper pig farming facility was being opposed. "They'll oppose everything," he added.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo has already given an assurance that the facility would be closed in the event that it

contributes in any way to the pollution of the river.

-- BERNAMA

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