

19 JUN 2003

Umno-Khir (Incinerator)

SELANGOR TO PROCEED WITH INCINERATOR PROJECT

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- The proposed incinerator in Broga, which has received opposition from certain quarters, will be implemented once the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) gives the all-clear sign, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo said today.

He said the RM1.5 billion project was necessary to improve waste disposal services for the people.

"We are awaiting the EIA report. If there are no problems, we will proceed with the project," he told reporters on the sidelines of the 54th Umno General Assembly here.

The EIA report would help in identifying the location, design and size of the project, he said.

The proposed incinerator, which can dispose of 2,400 tonnes of refuse from the Klang Valley daily, has been objected to by a handful of local residents, who claim it is harmful to health and the environment.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad cited the action of the people in the country, which is 10 times poorer than the developed countries, over their protest against the proposed incinerator because it allegedly would produce toxic gasses.

"We have become so arrogant that the acceptable level of pollution of people who are 10 times richer than us is not good enough for us," he said.

Dr Mohamad Khir said the project should have been implemented 10 years ago to overcome the problems on waste disposal.

He said there was no reason for the people to oppose the project because such incinerators had long existed in developed countries and had been proven safe.

The majority of the local residents were not against the project but a handful were opposing it on the instigation of outsiders, he said.

Dr Mohamad Khir, meanwhile, said the people should take seriously Dr Mahathir's reminder to Malaysians to be wary of external developments which could threaten the country.

He said the younger generation comprising those below 40 years could be easily influenced by foreign powers out to change the democratic government in the country.

The gullibility of the younger group was due to their lack of self-esteem, and one way to overcome this was to intensify activities of uniformed units in schools, he said.

-- BERNAMA

LES ZS MOZ YBY