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PM: NAM nations confident of KL playing host

KAMPAR, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) member countries have expressed their confidence in Malaysia's ability to host the summit in Kuala Lumpur next month.

He said Malaysia did not anticipate any security problems, and none of the 114 countries had objected to Malaysia's offer to hold the 13th meeting.

"We (NAM) feel that it is the right time to hold the summit here as Malaysia is capable of tackling terrorism and making a stand on it," he said after the ground-breaking ceremony of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman campus today.

He was responding to a question on the negative perception of the West, linking Malaysia with terrorism, and whether this would have any effect on the summit.

On the latest arrest of Jemaah Islamiyah members, Dr Mahathir said there would probably be more arrests as the Government was watching their movements.

On the dengue menace, he said the Government had played its role in advising the people to be more responsible and not allow water to remain stagnant in containers.

"The Government cannot prevent the people from getting some disease or other. If the people do not co-operate, there is no way we can stop the spread of dengue," he said.

Dr Mahathir said public awareness on dengue was important, and urged the Press to help educate the people.

On calls to streamline Syariah laws among the States, he said it was a good idea but some States wanted to have their own set of laws, adding that the matter would be discussed at the Umno supreme council meeting.