

FENCE-MAHATHIR

PADANG BESAR, APRIL 4 (BERNAMA) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT CUSTOMS REVENUE COLLECTIONS AT THE BORDER TOWNS OF PADANG BESAR AND BUKIT KAYU HITAM HAVE GONE UP CONSIDERABLY SINCE THE BUILDING OF AN ANTI SMUGGLING SECURITY FENCE ALONG CERTAIN PARTS OF THE MALAYSIAN-THAI BORDER.

HE TOLD NEWSMEN THIS FOLLOWING AN INSPECTION TOUR OF THE ANTI-SMUGGLING SECURITY FENCE AT BUKIT KAYU HITAM, CHUPING AND PADANG BESAR ALONG THE THAI-MALAYSIAN BORDER AT KEDAH/PERLIS TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE 17-MILE LONG STRETCH OF FENCING PUT UP BY THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROVED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE COUNTER-MEASURE AGAINST SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES AT THE BORDER.

+CUSTOMS REVENUE COLLECTIONS HAVE GONE UP FOUR-FOLD AT PADANG BESAR AND ONE-AND-A-HALF TIMES MORE AT BUKIT KAYU HITAM SINCE THE ERECTION OF THE FENCE, + HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE  
1729/LK

FENCE-MAHATHIR 2 PADANG BESAR

WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ANTI-SMUGGLING BARBED-WIRE FENCE WAS STARTED LAST MAY AND A TOTAL OF 17 MILES HAS SO FAR BEEN PUT UP FROM BUKIT KUAN CHU TO CHUPING (BORDER PILLAR 19) AT A COST OF ABOUT \$4.5 MILLION.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID ANOTHER STRETCH OF ABOUT 5 MILES OF SIMILAR FENCING STRETCHING FROM BORDER PILLAR 19 TO BUKIT KAYU HITAM WOULD BE BUILT BY MAY AT A COST OF ABOUT \$1.2 MILLION.

THE FENCE ALSO PROVIDED A COUNTER-MEASURE AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF DANGEROUS CONTRABAND SUCH AS DRUGS AND ARMS.

HE ADDED THAT HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE MATERIALS USED IN THE FENCING AS THE FENCING WAS THERE MERELY TO ACT AS A DETERENT AND IF ITS CONDITION DETERIORATED IT WOULD BE UPGRADED FROM TIME TO TIME.

ON THE QUESTION OF THAI MUSLIM SQUATTERS RESIDING AT THE MALAYSIAN PART OF PADANG BESAR, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE SQUATTING IN THE AREA +IF THEY CARRIED OUT PEACEFUL TRADING ACTIVITIES.+ -- BERNAMA MORE

1737/LK

FENCE-MAHATHIR 3 PADANG BESAR

HE FELT, HOWEVER, THAT THE SQUATTERS, NEEDED TO BE FENCED UP IN AN AREA AWAY FROM THE PRINCIPAL CUSTOMS AREA SO THAT THEY COULD CONTINUE WITH THEIR PETTY TRADING ACTIVITIES WITHOUT VIOLATING ANY REGULATIONS.

ACCOMPANYING THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON HIS TOUR OF THE AREAS WERE THE MENTRI BESAR OF PERLIS, DATUK HAJI JAAFAR HASSAN, AND MENTERI BESAR OF KEDAH, DATUK SERI SYED AHMAD SHAHABUDDIN, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY, ENCIK OSMAN BIN SAMSUDDIN CASSIM, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE LAND AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY DATUK HARUN BIN ARIFFIN, DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK RODZAN DUNTOH, BRIG. JEN. HASHIM BIN MOHAMED ALI AND OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. -- BERNAMA 1740/LK