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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 12 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT IS TO DETERMINE AN AGENCY TO BE ENTRUSTED WITH THE TASK OF RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF MORTGAGED MALAY RESERVATION LAND. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE HERE TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE PROBLEM.

HE WILL LOOK FOR WAYS AND MEANS OF SOLVING THE PROBLEM AND FIND OUT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT, + HE SAID.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HAD EARLIER CHAIRED THE 32ND MEETING OF THE NATIONAL LAND COUNCIL ATTENDED BY MENTERIS BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS.

ALSO PRESENT WAS THE MINISTER OF LAND AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TAN SRI ABDUL KADIR YUSOF.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED ANY AGENCY OR ANYONE WHO COULD PROVIDE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM.

+WE WILL BE TOO HAPPY IF THERE ARE AMONG 100 MALAY MILLIONAIRES WHO ARE WILLING TO RECOVER THE MORTGAGED LAND, + HE STRESSED.

THE COUNCIL, HE SAID, HAD DISCUSSED THE VARIOUS CONDITIONS AND LAWS IMPOSED ON DEVELOPERS TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE CHEATING IN DEVELOPMENT. — BERNAMA MORE 1335/A1

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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT THE VIEWS OF THE MENTERIS BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS ON THE MATTER WERE NOTED AS THE CABINET WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE EXISTING LAWS.

+HOWEVER, A TIGHTER LAW MAY ALSO AFFECT DEVELOPMENT, + HE SAID.

OTHER PROBLEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING WERE THOSE RELATING TO THE STRATA TITLES, INDUSTRIAL ESTATES AND THE MANAGEMENT OF HIGH-RISE FLATS.

ON THE GRANTING OF STRATA TITLES, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE SEVERAL UNSATISFACTORY FACTORS REGARDING THE MATTER WHICH COULD LEAD TO CHEATING.

ACCORDING TO HIM, ONE OF THE POSSIBLE UNHEALTHY INCIDENTS WAS THE FORWARD SALE OF PREMISES EVEN BEFORE THEY WERE PHYSICALLY BUILT.

IN VIEW OF THIS, THE GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO INTRODUCE A LAW TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THOSE WHO BOUGHT PREMISES WITH STRATA TITLES.

ON INDUSTRIAL ESTATES, A PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT ON THE NEED FOR A PROPER CONTROL OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT WAS DISCUSSED.

THE PAPER SUGGESTED THE SETTING UP OF A +BUFFER+ ZONE OUTSIDE ANY HOUSING AREA TO PROTECT RESIDENTS FROM POLLUTION.

ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, THE CABINET WHICH HAD ALREADY STUDIED THE MATTER FELT THAT THE CONDITION ON THE CREATION OF THE BUFFER ZONE SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSED RIGIDLY. — BERNAMA MORE

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HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT THE SUGGESTION SHOULD SERVE AS A GUIDANCE FOR ALL STATE GOVERNMENTS.

ON THE MORTGAGED MALAY RESERVATION LAND, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CONCERNED OVER THE MATTER AS SUCH LAND WAS LIMITED.

+THE LAND FORMS AN IMPORTANT ASSET FOR THE MALAYS AND IF IT IS SOLD COMPLETELY, THE MALAYS WILL BE LEFT WITHOUT ANY ASSET,+ HE STRESSED.

THIS WOULD IN TURN AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO RESTRUCTURE SOCIETY AND ENCOURAGE THE BUMIPUTRAS TO TAKE PART IN BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE UNSATISFACTORY NATURE OF THE LAND ADMINISTRATION IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID A STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION MODERNIZATION AND MANPOWER PLANNING UNIT HAD ALSO CONFIRMED THIS.

HE ATTRIBUTED THE LACK OF SOUND ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM, TRAINED MANPOWER AND UNSATISFACTORY WORKING CONDITION AS THE FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS.

ON THE MANAGEMENT OF HIGH-RISE DWELLING UNITS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE COUNCIL WAS OF THE OPINION THAT A PROPER BODY SHOULD BE SET UP TO HANDLE THE MATTER. — BERNAMA
1421/LK