

MAHATHIR-HYDRO
BM

ALOR STAR, JULY 16 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP MINI-HYDRO ELECTRICITY PROJECTS IN REMOTE AREAS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE HAD DIRECTED THE NATIONAL ELECTRICITY BOARD TO STUDY IMMEDIATELY THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING THE PROJECTS IN FOUR AREAS IN KEDAH — SIK, GURUN, KUBANG PASU AND THE MUDA IRRIGATION SCHEME.

SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN AFTER VISITING THREE OF THE PLACES, HE SAID THAT FROM REPORTS RECEIVED THERE WERE 47 POTENTIAL AREAS IN KEDAH FOR SUCH PROJECTS.

HE HAD ALSO ASKED THE NEB TO PREPARE THE ESTIMATES FOR SETTING UP A MINI-HYDRO ELECTRICITY PROJECT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE WOULD ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE ALLOCATION WAS SET ASIDE FOR THE PROJECT. — BERNAMA MORE 2058/LK
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HE ALSO SAID THAT THE NEB HAD REVIVED THE MINI-HYDRO COMMITTEE WHICH INCLUDED EXPERTS FROM THE UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA AND THE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DESCRIBED THE PROJECT AS A +PEOPLE'S PROJECT+ SUITABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN REMOTE AREAS BECAUSE OF ITS LOW COST.

ON THE STUDY TO DETECT UNDERGROUND WATER IN KEDAH, HE SAID THAT IT HAD PRODUCED SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

HE ADDED THAT KEDAH HAD WATER SUPPLY ADEQUATE NOT ONLY FOR DRINKING PURPOSES BUT FOR AGRICULTURE AS WELL.

SIMILAR STUDIES WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN OTHER STATES WHICH FACE WATER SHORTAGE, ESPECIALLY IN THE RURAL AREAS, HE ADDED. — BERNAMA