

U E092 A A E

MAHATHIR

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 5 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI OR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY BUSINESS LICENCES WILL ONLY BE ISSUED BY THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY TO EXPEDITE APPROVAL.

THE CABINET MADE THE DECISION TWO WEEKS AGO AND THE MINISTRY WAS IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING IT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

HOWEVER, FOR LICENCES FOR GAMES OF CHANCE, THE FINANCE MINISTRY WOULD REMAIN THE ISSUING AUTHORITY, HE ADDED AFTER CHAIRING A NATIONAL LAND COUNCIL MEETING AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

DATUK SERI OR MAHATHIR SAID THE MOVE WAS TO FACILITATE ISSUING OF LICENCES AS CURRENTLY CERTAIN BUSINESSES REQUIRED A LARGE NUMBER OF LICENCES BEFORE THEY COULD OPERATE, AT LEAST 63 IN THE CASE OF A HOTEL.

FOR THE STATE GOVERNMENTS IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THEY FORM A SPECIAL AGENCY TO HANDLE ISSUING OF LICENCES AT STATE LEVEL, HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE ISSUING OF LICENCES FOR INDUSTRIES WHOSE ACTIVITIES MIGHT AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENT DATUK SERI OR MAHATHIR SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD DIRECTED THE STATES TO REVIEW THE SITUATION WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO TOXIC WASTES.

HE SAID EVEN THOUGH THE COUNTRY DID NOT YET HAVE FACILITIES FOUND IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO COPE WITH SUCH PROBLEMS, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED WOULD NOT PUT THE ENVIRONMENT AT RISK.

ON PROTECTION OF LAND ADMINISTRATION DOCUMENTS, HE SAID TODAY'S MEETING DECIDED ON THE PURCHASE OF MICROFILM EQUIPMENT FOR ALL THE STATES TO FACILITATE PROPER AND SYSTEMATIC STORAGE.

THE MEETING ALSO AGREED TO GO AHEAD WITH COMPUTERISATION OF LAND RECORDS FROM NEXT YEAR TO PROVIDE FOR SPEEDY RETRIEVAL OF INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF OWNERSHIP OF ANY PIECE OF LAND IN ANY PART OF THE COUNTRY. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE TOLD THE COUNCIL TO ADOPT AN EFFICIENT, AND QUICK APPROACH IN DEALING WITH LAND MATTERS.

TO BOOST DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY, THE PROCESSING OF LAND REQUIRED FOR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING INDUSTRY, MUST BE EXPEDITED, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE MEETING ALSO DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURE AS AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT ON A SMALL SCALE WOULD NOT BENEFIT THE COUNTRY.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE LAND AREA OCCUPIED BY ESTATES WAS MUCH SMALLER THAN ALL SMALLHOLDINGS COMBINED BUT THE OUTPUT OF THE ESTATES, PARTICULARLY RUBBER, WAS HIGHER.

THE SITUATION REFLECTED INEFFICIENCY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, HE SAID, ADDING THAT THE SMALLHOLDERS NEEDED TO GROUP THEMSELVES ALONG THE LINES OF COOPERATIVES AND TACKLE AGRICULTURE IN A BIGGER WAY.

LAND AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK OR SULAIMAN DAUD, PERAK MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI RAMLI NGAH TALIB AND KELANTAN MENTERI BESAR DATUK HAJI MOHAMED YAACOB WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING. -- BERNAMA

1529MST C15 12 87