

U E197 AAE  
MAHATHIR - BOUNDARY  
BM

GRIK, JULY 6 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT WILL STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF RELAXING OR WITHDRAWING THE CURFEW IN THE MALAYSIA/THAILAND BORDER AREAS TO ENABLE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS TO BE CARRIED OUT THERE, PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE SAID THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD BE ASKED TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE LEVEL OF SECURITY IN THE BORDER AREAS BEFORE A DECISION WAS MADE WHETHER TO CONTINUE WITH THE CURFEW, RELAX IT OR TO WITHDRAW IT ALTOGETHER.

HE SAID : +IF THE AREAS ARE NOT DEVELOPED IT IS JUST LIKE WE ARE HANDING THE AREAS TO THE COMMUNISTS.+

AT PRESENT THE CURFEW IN THE BORDER AREAS INCLUDING THE EAST-WEST HIGHWAY IS ENFORCED FROM 6PM TO 6AM.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER A VISIT TO THE TOWN OF GRIK, NENERING FELDA GROUP AND PULAU BANDING IN THE DISTRICT OF ULU PERAK NEAR THE THAI BORDER TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION. -- MORE  
1825MST 06 07 89

D431

U E200 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BOUNDARY 2 GRIK

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IN THE PAST THE SECURITY THREAT IN THE AREAS WAS VERY SERIOUS THAT IT WAS MADE A +BLACK AREA+ AND THERE COULD BE NO MOVEMENTS IN THE AREA.

+HOWEVER THE GOVERNMENT HAS SUCCEEDED TO REDUCE AND DEFEAT BIT BY BIT THE COMMUNIST TERRORISTS TO THE POINT THAT IT CAN BE SAID THERE THERE IS NO INCIDENT INVOLVING COMMUNIST TERRORISTS HAPPENING NOW,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HOWEVER WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE PRESENT SECURITY SITUATION CAREFULLY AND COMPREHENSIVELY BEFORE A DECISION WAS MADE REGARDING THE CURFEW IN THE BORDER AREAS.

HE SAID THOUGH THE ULU PERAK DISTRICT WAS REMOTE AND ISOLATED IT HAD THE POTENTIAL TO BE DEVELOPED AS IT CONTAINED MANY NATURAL RESOURCES, WHICH HE SAID HAD NOT BEEN SATISFACTORILY WORKED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID BESIDES JUNGLE PRODUCE LIKE ROTAN, IT WAS POSSIBLE THE AREA CONTAINED A LOT OF GOLD ESPECIALLY IN THE BELUM VALLEY, WHICH IF WORKED COULD BE DEVELOPED AND BRING PROGRESS TO THE DISTRICT. -- MORE  
1837MST 06 07 89

D438

U E205 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BOUNDARY 3 GRIK

HE SAID THE GOLD THERE COULD NOT BE EASILY TAKEN OUT AS IT WAS FOUND DEEP INSIDE AND REQUIRED PROPER MINING METHODS. THE BELUM VALLEY IS STILL A SECURITY AREA.

HE SAID AT PRESENT PROSPECTING FOR THE METAL HAD BEEN HANDED TO THE MALAYSIAN MINING CORPORATION (MMC).

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE NATURAL BEAUTY AT PULAU BANDING AT THE TEMENGGOR LAKE COULD ATTRACT TOURISTS ESPECIALLY WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF BOATING FACILITIES AND FISHING.

THE POTENTIAL FOR TOURISM IN THE AREA WAS VERY GOOD BUT ITS REMOTE POSITION REQUIRED A STRATEGY IN ORDER TO ATTRACT TOURISTS TO BE FORMULATED NOW, HE SAID.

ON THE PROGRESS OF FELDA, HE REGRETTED THAT THE AUTHORITY WHICH WAS REGARDED AS A BODY MANAGING THE LARGEST ESTATE IN THE WORLD COVERING 800,000HA WAS STILL DEPENDING ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE. -- MORE  
1852MST 06 07 89

U E208 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BOUNDARY 4 GRIK

+IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT SUCH A BIG CORPORATION IS STILL HOPING AND EXPECTING FOR GOVERNMENT ASSISTING EVERY YEAR WHEN SMALL ESTATES NOT ONLY DO NOT RECEIVE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE BUT CAN STILL REAP PROFITS,+ HE SAID.

+WHAT IS HAPPENING IN FELDA IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH COMMERCIAL PRACTICE AS THOUGH AN ESTATE COVERING TWO MILLION ACRES IT STILL REQUIRED ASSISTANCE TO OPERATE,+ SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

HE CALLED ON FELDA TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON ITS LAND SCHEMES SO THAT ITS EFFORTS WOULD REALLY BENEFIT AND YIELD GOOD RETURNS TO THE COUNTRY.

+THE GOVERNMENT'S MONEY GIVEN TO FELDA COMES FROM THE PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE ALSO REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN OTHER SPHERES,+ HE SAID.

HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE STATEMENT BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ENCIK GHAFAR BABA RECENTLY THAT FELDA SHOULD REVIEW ITS SCHEMES SO THAT SETTLERS WOULD BE INVOLVED FROM THE BEGINNING IN THE OPENING OF LAND SCHEMES. -- MORE

1901MST 06 07 89

U E219 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BOUNDARY 5 GRIK

ACCORDING TO DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, THE PRESENT SETTLERS COULD NOT BE REGARDED AS SETTLERS AS THE EARLY STAGES OF WORK TO OPEN UP THE LAND HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT BY OTHERS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT CARRIED OUT THE WORK AT THE BEGINNING AND ONLY AFTER THEY WERE COMPLETED AND REVENUE DERIVED FROM THE LAND THAT IT WAS +PRESENTED TO THE SETTLERS TO TAKE OVER.+

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WAS A DRAWBACK ESPECIALLY FROM THE ASPECT OF TRAINING IN ENABLING THEM TO BE CAPABLE IN FACING CHALLENGES IN MANAGING LAND SCHEMES.

ON HIS VISIT, HE SAID IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF A SERIES OF VISITS TO LOOK INTO THE PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT IN DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

EARLIER, THE PRIME MINISTER WAS GIVEN A BRIEFING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ULU PERAK DISTRICT BY DISTRICT OFFICER HAJI ABDUL MANAF RAHIM, FELDA DIRECTOR-GENERAL ENCIK MOHAMED FADZIL YUNUS, AND A BRIEFING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PULAU BANDING BY FIMA BHD GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR DATUK HAJI MOHD NOOR ISMAIL.

HE ALSO MET GOVERNMENT OFFICERS IN THE DISTRICT BEFORE HAVING LUNCH AT KEM 304 BANDING.

ACCOMPANYING DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WERE PERAK MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI RAMLI NGAH TALIB, CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT TAN SRI SALLEHUDDIN MOHAMED AND DEPUTY NATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK TAJOL ROSLI GHAZALI. -- BERNAMA

1948MST 06 07 89