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Mahathir - slow

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TASIK KENYIR, Hulu Terengganu, Feb 18^(P) (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed dissatisfaction over the slow pace of development at the Tasik Kenyir area with potential for the tourist industry.

The Prime Minister said that four years ago he had directed the Perbadanan Memajukan Iktisad Negeri Terengganu (PMINT) to remove the trees still found in the lake.

+But unfortunately up to the end of last year the allocation provided by the government for the purpose has never been used,+ he told reporters after a three-hour tour of the lake area.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is on a two-day visit to Terengganu, said, if the work which was aimed at facilitating tourist movements in the lake area had been completed, there could certainly have been big returns.

+That's why it is very important that when the government provides any allocation for projects that have been planned, they should be speedily implemented,+ he said. -- more

♥18/02/19-05MST

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The Prime Minister said that he had directed the Tenaga Nasional Berhad to take over the project of removing the trees which were found within the lake using its own funds.

He said the PMINT would provide various facilities in the area such as accommodation and also build a restaurant near the lake.

+Pulau Lasir and Pulau Pertang will be turned into resorts and these have the potential to attract thousands of tourists both local and foreign,+ he said.

The Prime Minister was confident that when the projects were fully completed, they would have the capacity to attract both local and foreign investment worth thousands of millions of ringgit to the area.

To ensure that the twin projects of removing the trees by Tenaga Nasional and the building of the various facilities by PMINT were completed on schedule, he had directed Tenaga Nasional and PMINT to prepare monthly progress reports. -- more

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The Prime Minister while resting and having his lunch at Lasir Waterfalls drew two diagrams to serve as a sample for Tenaga Nasional and PMINT to implement their projects without much expenditure.

Asked to explain his sketches, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the first dealt with the method of building a safe jetty at minimum expense.

+My second diagram concerned the method of removing the trees still found in the lake by just using the winch, which is not costly,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also inspected the pilot fish breeding project using cages at Pulau Kuala Lasir and released 1,000 Tilapia Merah fry into the netlon cage.

The Prime Minister also attended a briefing on Tasik Kenyir development at the Tenaga Nasional office given by PMINT General Manager Datuk Abdul Aziz Ibrahim.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Nor were also present. -- Bernama

♥18/02/19-24MST