

# Dr M: Land Bill will not allow deviations

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BUTTERWORTH, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there will be proper guidelines under the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill to ensure there are no deviations.

Speaking to reporters after opening the Sony Electronics (M) Sdn Bhd and Sony Mechatronics Products (M) Sdn Bhd factories

today (see Page 7), Dr Mahathir said the Bill was necessary in view of the increasing population.

"In 60 years, the population will reach 70 million, while the land is not growing to match the population increase. People, especially the low-income group, may not have a place to stay," he said.

The Prime Minister gave an assurance that the Government would not acquire land blindly, contrary to what the Opposition, especially the DAP, had alleged.

DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang recently alleged in his campaign rounds in the Prai by-election that the Government was introducing legislative proposals which would extend the present powers of the Government to compulsorily acquire land for "public purposes" and it would only benefit favoured individuals or corporations.

Dr Mahathir explained that the Bill would stress safeguarding the interests of the poor who would be landless in the future.