

U PE 03-08 00165 EB660

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Mahathir (requested repetition)

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3⁹ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the people stand to lose if the government fails to implement development projects due to shortage of land.

The people would suffer if the government could not build houses, hospitals, roads, schools and other amenities, he said when opening the 20th delegates meeting of Parti Gerakan here.

+ As we all know, there is not much government land left, + he said in response to the opposition's criticism of the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill.

He said in view of this it was important that the government be given the powers to acquire land for continued development.

+The amendment is for the good of people in view of the anticipated increase in population and development, + he said.

The Bill, approved by the Dewan Rakyat recently, would be tabled at the Dewan Negara.-- more

♥03/08/14-03MST

U PE 03-08 00121 EB661

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Mahathir 2 Kuala Lumpur (requested repetition)

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government's move to amend the Act was exploited by the opposition and some sectors had accused the government of trying to rob the non-Malays of their land.

He said the allegation was baseless, irresponsible and dangerous.

+When acquiring land for development, the government will not take into consideration whether they belonged to Bumiputeras or non-Bumiputeras, + he said.

+We will not use racial sentiments. This is not the way the Barisan Nasional administers the country.+

He assured the people that the government would not acquire any land unless it was necessary for the purpose of development.-- more

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CNS2782

U PE 03-08 00163 EB662

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Mahathir 3 Kuala Lumpur

He said the government would pay compensation to owners of land that is acquired and if they were not satisfied with the amount they could bring the matter to court.

The allegation that the government was irresponsible and unfair was normal among the opposition parties and they would continue to repeat it each time they made a speech, he said.

+In the Prai by-election, we have seen how the opposition criticised the government with false accusation and exploited racial issues,+ he said.

The opposition parties won several seats in the last general election by exploiting racial sentiments, the Prime Minister said.

They continued to make the same allegations even after investigations carried out, by people on their sides, showed that what they said was untrue.

+ They will only stop accusing when the people whom they accused become their friends,+ the Prime Minister said.-- more

♥03/08/14-09MST

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Mahathir 4 Kuala Lumpur

" He reminded Barisan Nasional component parties of the possibility of some opposition parties using racial sentiments in a wider way to regain the support of the people.

+Members of the BN should continue to expose the opposition's lies and not to champion the cause of any issue created by the opposition,+ he said.

The Prime Minister was confident that the efforts of the DAP, Semangat 46 and PAS to jointly discredit the BN government would not succeed because they had no common stance.

+Their cooperation is a false cooperation, full of hypocrisies, aimed only at capturing power,+ he told the gathering attended also by leaders of other BN component parties.

He said if the opposition parties were able to form a coalition government, they would introduce stricter laws to ensure that they could remain in power.

Such a government would not be able to bring progress and benefit to the people, he said.--Bernama

♥03/08/14-36MST