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PM WANTS DEVELOPMENT OF +WAKAF+ LAND

Mahathir - land

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~~LANGKAWI~~, March 7 / (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir
~~Mohamad~~ said today he does not want +wakaf+ land to remain idle because it
could be developed to benefit Muslims.

He said the land could be used to put up buildings, or houses and not reserved exclusively as burial ground.

+I believe that the people who donated the land do not want to see it remain idle,+ he told reporters before returning to Kuala Lumpur today. He had opened the ~~Mofaz~~ Air Flying School here.

Yesterday, the Director-General of the Islamic Affairs Division in the Prime Minister's Department, Haji Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadir, said the department had identified +wakaf+ land valued at about \$500 million that was idle.

Squatters had also taken up sections of +wakaf+ land, and much of the land was located in strategic urban areas which could be developed commercially, he said. -- more

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Mahathir - land 2 (last) Langkawi

Dr Mahathir said the question of +wakaf+ land was a difficult one but he hoped that such land would not continue to remain idle.

He was convinced that Islamic affairs departments would be aware of this. -- Bernama

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