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PONTOON JETTIES MAY BE USED IN MUDDY AREAS, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir-pontoon

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KUALA KEDAH, July 5 (Bernama) -- Pontoon jetties may be used in muddy areas if they cost cheaper than reclaiming land, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said today.

He said a study on the cost of constructing such jetties was being conducted.

If the cost of constructing such jetties was cheaper, they may be constructed nation-wide by the private sector, he told reporters after visiting the +Uniflote+ pontoon jetty pilot project here today.

Dr Mahathir said such a jetty may be useful to fishermen and other boatmen.

He however said that following his visit to the pilot project today, he found that the cost of constructing such jetties was rather expensive. -- more

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Mahathir-pontoon 2 Kuala Kedah

He said the jetties normally used by fishermen now were made of stems of the +nibung+ tree and although they were less costly, they were always damaged and had to be repaired from time to time.

The use of pontoon jetties was being studied to overcome the problem of constructing jetties in muddy coastal areas as almost all coastal areas in the west coast of the country were muddy, he added.

+At times we reach deep waters only after eight kilometres, so if we were to fill up the land it may be costly,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff, State Public Amenities and Communications Committee Chairman Datuk Haji Zakaria Said, State Tourism Committee Chairman Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain and Berjaya Corporation Chairman Tan Sri Vincent Tan, spent about half-an-hour visiting the jetty.

Dr Mahathir, Osman and Tan later left in a helicopter for Langkawi to visit development projects there. -- more

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Mahathir-pontoon 3 (last) Kuala Kedah

The +Uniflote+ pontoon jetty, constructed by Berjaya Corporation at a cost of \$500,000, was completed two months ago and is being tested.

Encik E.N.Niotis, the managing director of Construction Products Sdn Bhd, the company supplying the pontoon, told reporters that British technology was being used and that it was now widely used world-wide including in Europe, the United States, and Central Africa.

He said the cost of building a +Uniflote+ pontoon was cheaper than other pontoon jetties.

All components used in constructing the jetty are imported from England but the company is discussing with Malaysian Shipyard Engineering (MSE) at Pasir Gudang, Johor Baharu, on the possibility of producing the components and the pontoon locally. -- Bernama

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