

# Ladato. reclaim land for future projects

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LANGKAWI, Fri. — The Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) will reclaim land for development projects in Pulau Langkawi because of escalating prices, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mo, hamad said today.

"If the Government needs land for future projects on the island, our priority will be to reclaim land from the sea," he said, adding that this would also help create nice beaches.

He also said Lada would now concentrate on developing land acquired on the island.

"We do not have plans to buy more land as we have sufficient at the moment," the Prime Minister told newsmen after opening the De' Lima Resort in Kuala Muda today.

On attempts by developers to sell their projects during the six-month grace period given by Lada for them to begin their projects, Dr Mahathir said Lada would revoke its approval for such projects if developers breached the original arrangement.

Errant developers would be barred from future projects on the island, he added.

On the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for Langkawi, Dr Mahathir said it would not be feasible for one EIA to be carried out for

Pulau Langkawi due to differing geographical features in various parts of the island.

"EIAs must be carried out project by project as it is the current which is causing sea erosion in some places, while in other places it is the trees which need to be considered.

"Hence, we cannot have an EIA for the whole of Pulau Langkawi," he said.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff, who is also Lada co-chairman, said land reclamation would be limited to specific areas.

"The sea is being reclaimed in Kuah and a feasibility study is also being carried out for the Pulau Langkawi International Airport in Padang Mat Sirat," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Osman said it was right for Lada not to buy more land.

Already, more than \$50 million had been spent to acquire land for infrastructural facilities.

Osman said Lada had no choice but to acquire and purchase land in areas which had been identified for development. This was to speed up development programmes.

Under the Sixth Malaysia Plan (SMP), \$374 million has been allocated for the development of Pulau Langkawi.

Of this, \$147.7 million is being channelled through Lada. The balance will be delivered from time to time.