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GOVT PROPOSING NATIONWIDE SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Mahathir - sewerage

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PULAU PINANG, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today a study was underway for a nationwide sewerage system, and the government had frozen all sewerage projects.

The freeze involved a sum of \$500 million approved for the projects under the Sixth Malaysia Plan, the Prime Minister told a news conference at the Bayan Lepas international airport here at the end of his two-day visit to the state.

He said the study was in the evaluation stage and if it was found to be feasible, the government would decide how to finance it.

The government might privatise the project so that it would not have to incur the expenditure of having to finance the sewerage system for effluents now discharged into the sea, he said.

+Broken drains or damaged or dirty water mains have to be repaired but require high expenditure when the government, dependent on taxes, is unable to collect enough revenue to meet the cost,+ he said. -- more

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Mahathir - sewerage 2 Pulau Pinang

He said that if the people were prepared to pay higher taxes without complaining, the government would be able to provide every necessary facility.

Earlier, opening the Rural Growth Centre in Tasek, Seberang Perai, Dr Mahathir said the government did not put pressure on the manufacturing sector in the collection of taxes from them.

He said manufacturers only had to pay 35 per cent of their profits in taxes.

+At times, when some of them made profits, they enter the amount in other accounts which do not show profits. They must not do this because we have to consider the interests of others as well,+ he said.

The government collected taxes in the interests of all the people, and the revenue was used for national development and provision of public amenities, he said. -- more

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Mahathir - sewerage 3 (last) Pulau Pinang

Dr Mahathir also criticised certain union leaders for continuing with their actions to disrupt industrial harmony in the country.

He said they were not bothered if their actions frightened away investors and again resulted in unemployment in the country.

These leaders did not ponder how to help create more jobs but were happy with the fees they collected from the workers which he claimed could be used for their own interests, such as for making overseas trips.

The Rural Growth Centre, developed by the Penang Regional Development Authority (Perda), comprises a business complex, small industries and low-cost houses. -- Bernama

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