

More of

western

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coastline

to be (P)

reclaimed

KANGAR, Thurs. — More of the coastline along the West Coast will be reclaimed to overcome land scarcity for industrial sites and tourism projects.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the country needed more land for industry, especially to carry out big projects like feedmills, petrochemical factories and refineries.

"Since we do not have enough land, we will reclaim," he said adding that the Government would no longer have to acquire land by opting to reclaim the sea to cater to the demand for land.

The Prime Minister said the other reason which makes sea reclamation feasible was the fact that the coastal area along the West Coast is muddy and not beautiful.

He said the Government agreed in principle to reclaim the coastal area and projects that would be carried out would depend on the needs.

"There is no project ... we only agreed in principle to reclaim the sea where necessary.

"There is no study yet ... it depends upon who the developer is — they (developers) can conduct the study," he said at a Press conference after opening the Pens Travelodge here.

Dr Mahathir was elaborating on his speech when opening the RM37.4 million Kuala Perlis ferry terminal.

He had said that more sea off the West Coast would be reclaimed.

"The reclamation works will also involve areas in Kedah and Penang."

On the terminal, Dr Mahathir said it would create more economic opportunities to the locals.

On the involvement of the private sector in expediting the nation's development, the Prime Minister said the private sector had been instrumental in the country's growth.

"They use their own capital to provide services and that's the way to boost our economy."