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Mahathir-Pulau Tuba

MAHATHIR SAYS GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP PULAU TUBA IN LANGKAWI

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LANGKAWI, May 28 (Bernama) -- The government will work out a scheme to develop Pulau Tuba, one of the islets off Langkawi Island; Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

In the meantime, he said, the islanders should not to sell their land however attractive the price offered may be.

"Within our capacity, the government will implement facilities which can develop Pulau Tuba," he said at a meeting with the islanders during his first visit to the islet since becoming Prime Minister.

Accompanying him were his wife Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff and Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid.

Pulau Tuba, one of the 104 islands in the Langkawi archipelago, is about 15 minutes by boat from Kuah on the main Langkawi Island and has about 2,000 inhabitants. -- more

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Mahathir-Pulau Tuba 2 Langkawi

Dr Mahathir said he wanted to personally inspect the islet's suitability to be developed before he asked investors to move there.

He felt Pulau Tuba could be developed for tourism and production of handicraft.

The tourism industry would offer the inhabitants opportunities for employment as well as to be owners of hotels and other forms of lodging, he said.

However, they must be prepared to provide good service and work with discipline, he added.

He said the islanders could also grow fruits to supply the many hotels on Langkawi Island. -- more

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Mahathir-Pulau Tuba 3 (last) Langkawi

Earlier, Osman said news of the Prime Minister's planned visit to Pulau Tuba had sparked off speculations that the government would soon develop the islet and many people had rushed there to buy up land.

He said land prices on the islet which previously cost between RM15,000 and RM20,000 per 0.4ha had doubled.

During his four-hour tour, Dr Mahathir visited the village's cottage industry which produces handicraft using "mengkuang" (pine leaves) and coconut shells. -- Bernama

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