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Mahathir-Reserve

MALAYS SHOULD BENEFIT FROM DEVELOPMENT OF MALAY RESERVE LAND

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said whatever efforts made to develop Malay reserve land should give maximum returns to the Malays.

Commenting on the proposal by the Land and Cooperative Development Ministry to suggest amendments to the National Land Council to provide for the leasing of Malay reserve land to non-Malays for development, he said "we need to study it, the question is not just leasing out the land but it must also fetch maximum returns to the Malays."

In this regard, he stressed that the efforts to lease out the land was to help the Malays.

As such, owners of Malay reserve land, for instance, in Kampung Baru here should not demand for a high price for their property like that of the land owned by non-Malays.

"We want to help the Malays. If landowners demand a high price, we have to develop the land at a high cost and other Malays will not be able to live in the area. If this happens, who should we help?" he told reporters at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport on his return from overseas.

Dr Mahathir said when he raised the Malay land reserve issue in last month's Umno General Assembly, he said it was not intended to raise the value of the land.

"Our objectives go beyond that on how to bring about maximum economic returns to the Malays and not to one or two individuals only. This is not easy," he said.

He emphasised that owners of Malay reserve land should not demand for a high price for their land if they wanted the land to be developed. --

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