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Osu-Reserve

NATIONAL LAND COUNCIL TO DISCUSS MALAY RESERVE LAND ISSUE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- The status of Malay reserve land will be discussed at the National Land Council meeting next month, Land and Cooperative Development Minister Datuk Osu Haji Sukam said today.

He said views expressed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the development of Malay reserve land should be given serious attention by state governments as land came under their jurisdiction.

"We will discuss the matter next month," he told reporters when asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's suggestions to develop the land when winding up the debate at the end of the three-day Umno General Assembly here.

Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib said the state government would conduct a study to develop the Malay reserve land in the state.

"All this while we have been defending the existence of Malay reserve land but now the situation need to be changed as the land must be developed," he said.

He said there are Malay reserve land in Selangor which had been acquired for development purposes.

Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said Malay reserve land can be used as collaterals.

"We can carry out a study whether the land can be sold or charged," he said.

Although Malays did not want to sell their Malay reserve land, they could still reap profits through the charge fee imposed on the land acquired for development, he said.

Khalil said Malays could now afford to own land of high commercial value unlike before they fear of their land being handed over to others when the property was developed.

Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said what was important now is how the Malay reserve could be developed.

He said Perlis did not face problems of Malay reserve land being acquired by the authorities because every hectare taken would be replaced.

He suggested that any Malay reserve land acquired must be replaced with the land of the same commercial value so that the owners would not suffer losses.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said the state government was negotiating to acquire 40 hectares of Malay reserve land in Bakar Batu near Johor Baharu.

He said negotiations were being held with landowners to develop the land for housing schemes, industrial estates and other infrastructure facilities.

"We hope to reach an agreement before end of this year," he said.

The project is the first to be carried out on Malay reserve land in Johor, he said.

He said the area need to be developed in view of the rapid development in surrounding areas, he added. -- BERNAMA

TEAM TS