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Mahathir-immigrants

ORDER OUT TO TACKLE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS

KULIM, March 18 (Bernama) -- Local authorities will be directed to take firm measures to resolve the problem of Indonesian illegal settlements which are reported to be mushrooming in the country.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that stern actions were needed to prevent it from becoming rampant.

The problem was that people were passing the buck and this complicated matters, he told a press conference after opening the Hi-Tech Park here.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on a newspaper report today that five Indonesian illegal settlements had been built in the Hulu Langat district in Selangor.

The report said the illegal settlements were built over seven years, and they included a central township known as Kampung Malindo in Balakong which has a recreation centre, clinic and kindergarten.

Dr Mahathir also said he was in the dark about a foreign news agency report which claimed that he had deferred plans to allow two foreign companies to set up a wafer fabrication plant in the park.

"I do not have any such information and I am surprised by the source of the report. They attribute their sources to senior government officials but they did not speak to any senior official," he said.

On allegations that Malaysia had sweetened its offers to attract foreigners to invest in hi-tech industries, Dr Mahathir said many investors would come if the offer was "sweet".

Dr Mahathir also said the government would speed up plans to build another airport in northern peninsular Malaysia.

However, the site for the new airport had not been decided yet, he said. -- Bernama

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