

13 NOV 1997

Mahathir-land

DON'T SELL OFF LAND FOR SHORT-TERM GAINS, SAYS MAHATHIR

TAIPING, Nov 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised land-owners in areas being developed not to dispose of their plots for short-term gains but instead use them as their capital investment for in-situ development.

In this way they could help accelerate the country's development but more importantly, would not part with their property through outright sale, he said when opening the Bukit Merah Lake Town Water Park about 15 km from here.

"Land is capital. If sold, the money from the sale is bound to be spent and we'll lose the source of our wealth," he said citing soaring land prices of areas already developed such as in Langkawi.

Dr Mahathir said in the 1950s, land in Langkawi only cost RM200 for 0.12 hectare but has now soared to RM250,000 per 0.4 ha.

He said the people living in and around Bukit Merah lake would also face a similar situation upon completion of the integrated development there being undertaken by Segi Objektif Sdn Bhd at an estimated cost of RM3 billion over 20 years.

He said at a time when the ringgit was being attacked by foreigners out to impoverish the country it was crucial that the people carry on with development projects to prove Malaysia's capacity for continued advancement.

Dr Mahathir said these foreigners would like to believe that they had accomplished impoverishing Malaysians and had already sent photographers to record images of the country's imminent economic depression.

"But they're disappointed as they had failed to deliver a death blow to the country because the people's solid resilience restrained them from staging demonstrations and strikes in the face of the financial crisis," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians had instead put in extra effort to increase output of goods for export.

He said so long as the people remained mindful of their duty to be united and disciplined, it would be difficult for any form of colonialism to gain footing in the country.

The prime minister said Malaysians should be wary of schemes to colonise the country by way of using money to bring about depreciation of the ringgit.

The schemers would like to believe that an impoverished Malaysia would then ask for loans from them for which they would impose certain conditions including political control of the country.

"The people should not allow this to happen because the 400 years under colonial rule could not measure up with the glaring progress brought about by 40 of independence," Dr Mahathir added. -- BERNAMA

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