

04 AUG 1997

Sulaiman

KEDAH EARMARKED FOR MODERN AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- A 250ha-site in Kedah has been identified for a modern agricultural project, deploying more sophisticated equipment in farming and livestock breeding, Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud said today.

The equipment to be used would also help with nursing the young plants, planting, ploughing and fertilizing the land and finally crop harvesting, he said.

"This will save cost compared to the use of equipment meant for different uses," he told a press conference after opening a seminar and an exhibition on the study and research into coastal development here.

However, Sulaiman did not specify the location of the area earmarked, nor the project cost.

According to him the project was mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on his return from a two-month vacation abroad last month.

Sulaiman said he would meet the Prime Minister on Aug 13 to discuss the project further.

Dr Mahathir had on his return called for changes in the Malaysian farming method, which according to him was still largely labour-intensive.

Earlier, opening the seminar and exhibition, Sulaiman spoke of his concern over the rate of coastal erosion seriously affecting about 29 per cent of the coastline.

The root cause was lack of planning in putting up buildigs along the coast and the indiscriminate cutting down of trees in the coastal areas.

The two-day seminar was attended by engineers, scientists, government and private sector planners, academicians, consultants and contractors.--

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