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Hi-tech park site to be used for farming

KANGAR, Wed. - The site for the proposed 500-hectare hi-tech industrial park at Sungai Chuchoh will be temporarily converted to vegetable farms, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said today.

"We want to put the land to good use rather than letting it remain idle," he told reporters after chairing the State Executive Council meeting at his office.

Shahidan also said Perlis was not like other States which had land to gazette as agricultural areas.

The proposed hi-tech park is at Titi Tinggi about five km from Padang Besar.

Other projects planned there include small and medium-scale industries, an inland cargo depot, a golf course, a recreation area, and residential and commercial properties.

Also in the pipeline are a Research and Development centre, a town centre and space for the setting up of branch campuses of tertiary institutions.

In April 1996, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the park and witnessed the signing of 21 memorandums of understanding between private companies and the Perlis SEDC.

Shahidan had then expressed hopes for the park's quick development.

The State Government had allocated RM15 million to buy the land from the 200-odd owners who settled in the area in 1952, he added.

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