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Law-Hill

BRAIN-STORMING SESSION FOR PLANNERS, SAYS LAW

KUALA LUMPUR, July 31 (Bernama) -- A brain-storming session will be held soon among relevant parties to find out ways to prevent hill-cutting for development purposes, Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Law Hieng Ding said today

Law said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir recently expressed concern once again for such activities and the ministry was aware and supported the idea.

At present, developers had the tendency to flatten hilly areas for development purposes, he told reporters after witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Malaysian Centre for Remote Sensing (Macres) and the Peninsular Malaysia Forestry Department (JPSM) here.

"It's not a good practice because it spoils the landscape and beauty of an area. At the end...the buyers have to pay more to purchase such properties," he said.

Law said the brain-storming session would involve town planners, architects, engineers and developers' associations and relevant ministries.

On the MoU, he said Macres and JPSM would work together on forest mapping, road track logging and tree mapping using sensing remote via satellite in an effort to properly manage forestry.

Law also said Macres would provide the technology on specific areas in order to have an organised planning in Malaysian forestry.

He said Macres' effort would be much easier when the satellite ground receiving station in Temerloh, Pahang was completed and fully operational next year.

At the moment Macres obtained data and satellite pictures from Thailand and it was time consuming as it depended on the priority of the ground station in that country.

Law said the Temerloh station would be able to cover 2,500km in radius including South East Asia, Sri Lanka and part of China and India.

Meanwhile, JPSM Director-General Datuk Zul Mukhshar Datuk Mohd Shaari said with the MoU, JPSM would be able to save time and money on forest mapping but also detect illegal logging.

"Satellite pictures would be able to help us manage the forest in a more organised manner and to prevent destruction of tree species when road logging tracks are done in an area," he said.

Zul Mukhshar signed the MoU on behalf of JPSM while Macres was represented by its director Nik Nasruddin Mahmood.

Macres was officially established in August 1988 and became fully operational in January 1990.

Its objective is to develop space remote sensing and related technologies and to operationalise its application for the country's resource, environmental management and strategic planning.

-- BERNAMA

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