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GOVT TO CONSIDER ASKING BERNAS TO BUY PADI- DR MAHATHIR

ALOR SETAR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- The Government will consider the possibility of asking Bernas to buy local padi to reactivate the country's present sluggish padi market, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the rice glut problem could be due to rice smuggling activities in this country.

"The quality of local padi is less attractive hence millers are not interested in buying them," he said when speaking to reporters after visiting the house here where he was born.

Some 300,000 tonnes of padi are lying idle at 40 rice mills here because the millers are refusing to buy it at the normal price as cheaper rice was easily available.

-- BERNAMA

JM JM AAM