

22/11/2002

Dr M: Study needed on hillside development

Ramlan Said; Firdaus Abdullah; Patrick Sennyah; Deborah Loh; Jalina  
A COMPREHENSIVE study on hillslope development nationwide should be carried out to ensure calamities like landslides do not recur, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"We need a proper study to know whether it is safe or not. The topography, soil and other aspects have to be looked into in any hillside development," the Prime Minister said when commenting on the landslide which destroyed the home of former Armed Forces chief Tan Sri Ismail Omar in Taman Hillview on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters after breaking fast with Finance Ministry staff in Putrajaya, Dr Mahathir said the incident was most unfortunate.

"But it has happened, so we have to be more careful. We have to study the topography, soil, not only in this area but also others where there is hillside development."

On views that the Hillview incident should not have happened had the authorities had carried out their responsibilities, Dr Mahathir said: "I know but who can predict it will happen. We evacuated residents of the Highland Towers for fear of the blocks collapsing but they did not ... it happened in another area."