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Mahathir-Hills

DR M CALLS FOR THOROUGH STUDY ON HILLSIDE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight said a proper study will have to be conducted on hillside development areas to gauge their level of safety in the wake of the landslip yesterday which flattened a bungalow at the foot of a hill in Ampang, killing eight people.

The Prime Minister said the government would look into the matter seriously.

"We have to study storoughly the topography, soil and all that. In other areas too, not only at that place, wherever there are developments near hills or on top of the hills, or on the hillslopes, we have to have proper study to find out whether it is safe or not," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, told this to reporters after breaking fast with Finance Ministry officials here.

The pre-dawn landslip destroyed a bungalow, burying 13 people alive. Five people including houseowner Jen (Rtd) Tan Sri Ismail Omar survived when they were rescued by a search party.

The Prime Minister described the tragedy as "unfortunate" and something that was unexpected.

When pointed out that a lot of people were saying that it shouldn't have happened, Dr Mahathir said: "I know. But who can predict where it is going to happen."

Citing the example of the 1993 tragedy at the Highland Towers located not far from the Taman Hillview landslip yesterday, he said the residents of the remaining two towers were evacuated following the collapse of the third.

"We have evacuated (the residents) but it (the landslip) did not occur there, it occurred elsewhere. How are we to know," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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