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Rais-Malay Reserve/BM

AMENDMENT TO MALAY RESERVE ENACTMENT WILL IMPROVE LAND VALUE, SAYS RAIS

SIMPANG PERTANG (Jelebu), Sept 27 (Bernama) -- The economic value of Malay reserve land in the Federal Territory and Langkawi is expected to improve when the Malay Reserve Land Enactments in both places are amended to help streamline all dealings related to the land.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the amendment was undertaken under the directive of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Rais said he had several meetings on the matter with state representatives of Kedah and Federal Territory and other relevant agencies, and that he would, together with Land and Cooperative Development Minister Tan Sri Kasitah Gaddam, present a working paper to the Cabinet next week.

When the presentation is made and approved, the problem faced by Malay Reserve Land would be overcome and its economic value increase and land transactions would be implemented without any other consideration.

"For example, we will determine that approved lease must extend beyond 50 years and programmes to boost the economy must be arranged with the support of respective state governments," he told reporters after presenting letter of appointment to Class F contractors and Yayasan Tekun Nasional (Tekun) loans for Jelebu Parliament constituency here today.

Dr Rais said despite the amendments to the Enactments, the Malay reserve land holdings would remain in the hands of the Malays and only economic programmes would allow the involvement of non-Malays.

"We have to amend a few schedules to allow companies with potential to jointly develop and provide guarantee so that viable projects could be implemented," he said.

If Government's efforts are rewarded, other state governments would be willing to amend their own enactments in their respective states.

When asked the type of projects considered viable for implementation on Malay reserve land, he said perhaps the construction of factories and the like.

On the level of involvement of non-Bumiputera companies in developing Malay reserve land, Dr Rais said the levels would be left to state governments, but Bumiputera companies would be encouraged to develop the land.

So far, the corporate sector such as Maybank, Bank Islam and cooperatives were allowed to conduct transactions under the enactment.

-- BERNAMA

APG PR VRN/AO