

# 'Greedy developers should be jailed'

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by **Zainal Epi** and **R. Manirajan**  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**PUTRAJAYA:** Developers who clear and level hills illegally should be jailed and not just fined.

These is the view of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who said: "I don't know what laws there are but if there is a law which can put them in jail, only then will it be effective."

"Until then, the developers will not bother.

"They will just pay the fines," he said in response to questions on hill clearing in Cameron Highlands.

Mahathir ticked off greedy developers for levelling hills for profit without any thought for greenery.

"I do not understand why such

developers look for hilly areas.

"Why can't they look for flat land," he said after launching the second anniversary of the Putrajaya Federal Territory and opening the Botanical Gardens here.

Mahathir said it was sad to read in newspapers and look at photographs of hilly areas being levelled in Cameron Highlands.

Mahathir deplored the indiscriminate development in Cameron Highlands where scant regard has been given to environmental factors, adversely affecting its natural beauty.

He regretted that some areas had been flattened to the extent that the highlands now appear like lowlands.

Meanwhile, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk M. Kayveas when met at the same function said that the state government

should monitor development in Cameron Highlands.

Asked if there were elements of corruption involved, he said: "We do not have any proof and we have not received such information.

"But looking at what that is happening, we can't say there isn't ... we don't have proof and we can't simply make accusations."

Last Friday, an employee of the state Land and Mines Department lodged a police report about a group of developers using heavy machinery to clear and develop an 8ha plot in Cameron Highlands, which was previously part of the Blue Valley Tea Plantation.

Work on the area has continued despite two stop-work orders issued by the Cameron Highlands District Council.