

DEVELOP YOUR LAND, SABAH, SARAWAK TOLD

Dr M says both states should use modern agriculture methods to boost people's lives

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PRIME Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Sabah and Sarawak should capitalise on their vast land and develop modern agricultural methods to enrich people in rural areas. Dr Mahathir said the two states were richer than other states in the peninsula, with land being a major resource. "We want to stress something

that Sabah and Sarawak have.

"They have a lot of land. So we want to renew our policy on modern agriculture, which can ensure people in rural areas can become rich."

Dr Mahathir, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) chairman, said this at the party's closed-door meeting here yesterday.

Asked why he had not announced any "goodies" for Sabah and Sarawak during his speech at the Malaysia Day celebration on Monday, he said: "The 'goodies' come together with all the other (states) because we want to ensure there is no big disparity between them.

"I didn't say it specifically, but Sabah and Sarawak have a lot of land," he said, stressing that the land needed to be developed with new technologies.



Prime Minister and Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad being greeted upon arrival to attend the party's closed-door meeting in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

Dr Mahathir said the country faced financial constraints due to its debt burden, stressing the Pakatan Harapan government needed to spend money wisely and determine its priorities.

"We will give allocations for major priorities. The rest, we will reduce," he said.

On whether, Sabah deserved more allocation, he said: "Sabah is not the poorest (state). Perlis

and Kedah (are the) poorest."

Earlier, Dr Mahathir attended a closed-door meeting with Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal and state cabinet members.