

Headline	Land acquisition problem delays infrastructure devt in Mada area		
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## Land acquisition problem delays infrastructure devt in Mada area

**SINTOK:** The land acquisition problem faced in building and upgrading infrastructure in the Muda Agriculture Development Authority (Mada) area is the main cause for the delay in implementing the projects.

Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Deputy Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Johari Baharom said the difficulties included tracing the owners of padi fields which had been leased out to other parties for a long period.

“Mada could only spend RM100 million on compensation for land acquisition from the RM2.2 billion allocation approved by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak last year for the development and upgrading of infrastructure in the Mada area.

“To overcome the land acquisition problem, I urge the

Area Farmers Organisation unit heads to play a more active role in this matter,” he told reporters after addressing 493 Mada farmers’ unit heads at Hotel EDC-Universiti Utara Malaysia, here, yesterday.

The event, held for the first time, was also attended by Mada general manager Datuk Abdul Rahim Salleh and Mada Area Farmers Organisation Coordinating Committee chairman, Ahmad Radin.

Mohd Johari said Mada had only eight more years to complete the infrastructure development and upgrading to make the padi-growing area under its jurisdiction at par with the developed rice bowls of other countries so that the padi yields could increase to 10 tonnes per hectare.

In this regard, he wants farmers in Kedah and Perlis

to have a positive attitude so as to effect change in the padi industry, to enable it to grow in line with the implementation of the Government Transformation Programme.

He said the government had also allocated RM500 million as incentive for farmers who agreed to participate in the padi

estate projects with centralised management, aimed at improving their socio-economy.

In this respect, he urged the farmers’ unit heads to assist Mada in channelling information, explaining and in supporting government efforts in raising farm productivity.

“A huge fund allocation alone is not enough if farmers don’t change their attitude as this can impede the agriculture development plans,” he said. — Bernama