

MAHATHIR-AIRLINE

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(P)

MALACCA, APRIL 26 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER ALLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECOND AIRLINE IN THE COUNTRY IN THE LONG TERM IF IT IS CONUNGED THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR IT, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS FLEXIBLE TO ANY PROPOSAL WHICH COULD IN THE LONG RUN MEAN BETTER SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT SERI PERINGGIT, THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER, AFTER A LUNCHEON AT THE END OF HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO THE STATE. —BERNAMA MORE 1845/BY MAHATHIR-AIRLINE 2 MALACCA

ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST THAT THE BATU BERENDAM AIRPORT HERE BE UPGRADED TO BOOST THE GROWTH OF INDUSTRY IN THE STATE HE SAID THE AIRPORT COULD BE EXPANDED IN LINE WITH DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT CONVERT IDLE LAND, NOT SUITABLE FOR PADI, TO BE PLANTED WITH OTHER CROPS AS THERE WAS AN ACUTE SHORTAGE OF LAND IN THE STATE.

ON THE PROPOSED PETRONAS PROJECT IN MALACCA, HE SAID THERE WAS NO REASON WHY IT SHOULD NOT BE SET UP IN THE STATE IF THE AREA PROPOSED FOR IT WAS SUITABLE.

“AFTER ALL, THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IS TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL STATES BENEFIT FROM ITS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER”, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT TO ENSURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WERE IMPLEMENTED EFFECTIVELY AND IN TIME, GOVERNMENT OFFICERS SHOULD NOT MERELY WAIT FOR DIRECTIVES FROM THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

HE SAID THERE WERE MANY WAYS IN WHICH THEY COULD EXERCISE INITIATIVE TO HELP SPEED UP PROJECTS, ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE LUNCHEON WERE CHIEF MINISTER ENCIK MOHAMED ADIB BIN HAJI ADAM, EDUCATION MINISTER AND STATE UMNO LIAISON CHIEF, DATUK MUSA HITAM, AND STATE SECRETARY, HAJI ZAINAL ABIDIN BIN DATUK HAJI NORDIN. —BERNAMA 1850/BY