

THINK

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MALAYSIA

KOTA KINABALU, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today there is no special treatment for any particular State in the Federal Government's relationship with State Governments.

He added that the Federal Government treated Sabah and Sarawak like any of the other States in the peninsula.

At a pre-departure Press conference after a two-day visit to Sabah, he said that though Sabah and Sarawak were separated by the South China Sea from the rest of the Federal Government, "we treat the two States just like any other State in the peninsula."

The Prime Minister said the sooner the people thought in terms of being Malaysians and less in terms of being Sabahans or Sarawakians the better it would be for national integration.

On the performance of the Sabah State Government, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he was very impressed with the development achieved by the State.

He said the rate of development in Sabah was comparable with that of the other States, if not better.

He added that the State Government was embarking on a massive industrialisation programme which included the setting up of steel and methanol plants.

"These industrial projects will definitely benefit the people of Sabah as well as the rest of the country."

He said the State would need a lot of skilled labour in view of this rapid development, and foreign workers might have to be brought in to help meet the requirement.

He hoped there would be integration between the people of Sabah and the foreign workers, especially those from Peninsular Malaysia.

New city

The people of the State must be prepared to work hard if they were to stop the takeover of job opportunities by foreigners. Also, in seeking employment, they must not be choosy.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir attributed the present high standard of living enjoyed by Malaysians to the hard work put in by the people

to achieve progress.

Earlier, the Prime Minister named the proposed \$1.6 billion new modern city to be developed at the conclave of Likas Bay, 1½km from the main town near "Lekas Jaya."

On a uniform time zone for the country, he said he had had discussions on the matter and several problems had been raised.

"That is why we have not made any decision on the matter immediately. If we do start on a uniform time zone, it will be early next year."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said Chief Minister Datuk Harris Mohamed Salleh had offered to present 24 Bajau ponies to the Federal Territory Ministry for the horse tracks planned for Tasek Perdana and Taman Tasik Titiwangsa in Kuala Lumpur.

On the higher prices of goods in Sabah compared with the other States, he said the Government was trying to improve the communication system in the State in an effort to lower prices.

He also said the gas-based projects to be developed at Labuan would be briefed on the various aspects of development of the naval base by secretary-general of the Ministry of Defence Tan Sri Mohamed Yusof bin Abdul Rahman, secretary of the Development Division (Major Projects) Mindef Encik Affendi bin Hanafiah and Kapt. N.E. Peterson, commanding officer of

KD Pelandok, the training centre of the base.

Tan Sri Mohamed Yusof said when the base was completed in 1985, the cost was expected to reach \$1.2 billion compared to the original estimate of \$450 million.

Stadium

The base, he said, was currently 70 per cent completed and it would be one of the most sophisticated and fully-equipped in the region.

The base would also act as the nucleus of social economic development for the area, he added.

Tan Sri Mohamed Yusof said there were 3,000 seamen currently in *KD Pelandok* and when the base was fully operational, the seamen and members of their families would number about 30,000.

The King was also shown slides of activities in the base and a film show on a missile training exercise.

He later visited the sports complex still under construction. Expected to be completed next year, it will be the biggest and best equipped stadium in the country.

The King also went to the recruits canteen where he personally tasted the food served.

Among those present were the Chief of Navy Laksamana Madya Datuk Mohamed Zain bin Salleh, Labour Minister

Datuk Richard Ho, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mohamed bin Haji Wan Teh and State Secretary Datuk Seri Mohamed Khalil bin Haji Hussain.