

PM's support for Langkawi project

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KUAH, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night dismissed criticisms that the \$3 billion tourism project carried out by Promet in Langkawi is causing hardship to the people.

Speaking to the Langkawi Umno division leaders, the Prime Minister said the gigantic project had in fact brought all sorts of benefits and opportunities to the people of Langkawi that can help them improve their livelihood.

"I brought Promet to Langkawi to expedite the development in the island for the benefit of the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he was unhappy that Promet had become the target of criticisms particularly from Opposition parties of late.

"These people were claiming Promet brought only hardship due to the development of the island into a tourist centre of international standard.

"But we took the company to Langkawi because we felt Kedah needed such a project more than other States.

"With Promet in Langkawi, I am confident the island will progress rapidly," he said.

However, Dr Mahathir stressed that the fruits of the development could only be tasted if the people

were willing to work for it.

"The opportunities are there. It is left to the people to make good use of them," he said.

He urged the people in Langkawi to work closely with one another to derive the benefits from development programmes being carried out in the island.

"I am aware that certain quarters will be disturbed with the progress and development that the Government brought to the people.

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"As such, it is the duty of Umno to enlighten the people here," he said.

Party leaders should also think of opportunities and projects that the people can participate.

"The locals can supply foodstuff like vegetables, fruits and fish, and mat to hotels that will be set up eventually," he said.

On problems related to land, Dr Mahathir said some had to make sacrifices to pave way for progress.

"However, those whose land was acquired for these programmes will be adequately compensated," he said.