

Don't politicise development projects: Dr M

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By AHIRUDIN ATTAN

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged opposition parties not to politicise development efforts in Kelantan by the Federal Government, and the people not to doubt the Government's sincerity in bringing development to the state.

The Prime Minister said the Federal Government is sincere in wanting to effect development and economic progress in all states, even though some states are ruled by the opposition.

Such development, he added, is in line with the 2020 vision that seeks to turn Malaysia into a developed nation.

He made these remarks when opening the \$19.6 million Pasir Mas-Salor bridge about 13 km from Kota Baru, the capital of PAS-ruled Kelantan.

In jest, he said he hopes no one will go to the extent of swimming across the Kelantan river each time they need to cross to the other side just to show opposition to, or doubt in, the construction of the bridge.

Earlier, Works Minister Datuk Leo Moggie said the Federal Government has proposed some \$90 million under the Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991-1995) for new road projects and the upgrading of existing road infrastructure, including the expressway into Gua Musang.

Under the Fifth Malaysia Plan (1986-1990), the Federal Government, through the Works Ministry, undertook several major road projects in the state. These included the upgrading of the Kota Baru-Kuala Terengganu road, at a cost of \$30 million, the construction of the road

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leading to the airport (\$6.1 million), the construction of two bridges near Pengkalan Chepa (\$8.2 million) and the upgrading of the Kota Baru-Kuala Krai road (\$5.4 million).

Datuk Leo Moggie said the construction of the 630-metre Pasir Mas-Salor bridge is the first of a two-package road infrastructure development. The tender for the second package, for the development of a 26 km road between Kota Baru and Kuala Krai, is scheduled to be called early next year.

At the end of his day-long trip in the state, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir told a news conference the construction of the Pasir Mas-Salor bridge should quash any suggestion that the Federal Government is holding back development aid or programmes to states that have fallen to the opposition.

"I don't see why these development programmes should be affected just because PAS is ruling the state," he said. He added, however, that ties between the Federal and Kelantan governments cannot be expected to be as close as before. "The relations now have to be between parties of different ideologies."

Earlier, in a two-hour meeting with state Umno members, the Prime Minister called for full commitment to the struggles and objectives of the party, and not to certain individuals or leaders.

He said Umno will never regain Kelantan if its members in the state do not adhere to party principles.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, in slamming PAS leaders for using Islam as an instrument to enhance the party's struggles, said Umno has done much more to safeguard the interest of Islam and Muslims in this country long before PAS ever existed.