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Mahathir-revenue

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(P)
MELAKA, Sept 3⁹¹ (Bernama) -- The Cabinet has decided that ministries and government agencies and departments should think of ways to obtain their own financial sources by +selling+ services which they now provided free, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said today.

The Prime Minister said government agencies should identify services for which they could charge payment and the revenue from this could be pooled back to fund the services.

+They should find the funds themselves by selling whatever it is that can be sold... as long as they do not sell the building,+ he quipped after being briefed on development in Melaka at the Seri Negeri building here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir arrived here this morning for a two-day official visit to the state.

He said many government forms were now distributed free to the people although the printing of the forms cost money.

+Maybe, the people will not be happy (if they have to pay) but we have no funds to supply everything... we have to find new financial sources,+ he added.

He said these organisations should also provide their own funding for the projects or services because Federal government funds were limited. -- more

▼03/09/16-24MST

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"They should not wait for allocations from the Federal government before embarking on any plans, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Federal government also did not have sufficient funds to pay for all infrastructure provided to attract investments.

The government did not want to incur debts which it could not repay, he said, adding that this was why it had to come up with funding by imposing toll and privatising certain projects to boost economic growth.

However, the people had yet to accept the necessity to pay toll, he added.

He said the people should accept all kinds of approaches and strategies if they wished to turn Malaysia into a developed nation by the year 2020.

Although the country was experiencing rapid economic growth, revenue growth still remained unsatisfactory, he added.

He said each private investment approved was preceded by investments by the government to provide infrastructure such as water, electricity and roads.

The Prime Minister said the investors should realise that they were required to contribute to the growth of facilities provided in other areas such as airports and ports which they utilised. -- more

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The government had decided that the new International Airport would be built in Sepang, Selangor, he added.

He said the Federal government did not have adequate funds for distribution to all the states and the state governments should understand this and seek their own funds.

States which had bigger revenues should not seek grants from the Federal government for projects which they could afford.

He added that they should realise that there were other state governments which could not even meet the salary expenses for their government staff and encountered deficit budgets such as in Kelantan which earned \$50 million in annual revenue.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said tomorrow's Cabinet meeting here would enable the Ministers to take a closer look at developments in the state and foster closer ties between Federal and state leaders.

This is the third time the Cabinet is meeting outside Kuala Lumpur. The first was in Pulau Langkawi, followed by Kuching. -- more

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Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said civil servants should realise that the government did not have money to distribute freely and they should be hardworking, patient and disciplined if they wished the country to continue to progress.

None of them should do anything to hamper progress brought by the government to achieve the people's vision of making the country a developed nation within the next three decades, he added.

The objectives of Vision 2020 were not beyond reach so long as the people remained patient, diligent and confident in achieving progress, he said.

The briefing was given by State Secretary Datuk Mohamad Zam Abdul Wahab. Present were several Minister of Energy, Telecommunications and Post, Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Minister of Works, Datuk Leo Moggie, Minister of Primary Industries, Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Seri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid. -- Bernama

♥03/09/16-49MST