

# 'Call it Mahathir Airport' proposal

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THE proposed international airport in Sepang should be named Dr Mahathir International Airport in view of the far-sightedness of the Prime Minister in wanting to develop Sepang into an international destination. Datuk Mohamed Shariff Jajang (BN-Sepang) suggested in the Dewan Rakyat.

He said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had vision in wanting to turn Sepang into a fully developed district with the international airport being very sophisticated and modern.

"The Sungei Besi airport was named Smpang airport, the one at Subang named Subang International airport. But I do not agree to the new airport being named the Sepang international airport," he said during the debate on the 1992 Budget proposals.

He said for the people in Sepang, the proposed airport is like a dream come true.

"We can foresee the vast business and employment opportunities that will be

created for the people," he said.

Datuk Mohamed Shariff said the proposed international airport will definitely place Sepang on the world map.

He said the airport should be named after national leaders who contributed to the development of the country over the years.

Che Ibrahim Mustafa (BN-Sungei Petani) said the budget proposals were very realistic, and would greatly benefit the people.

He said the proposals would benefit not only executives but also the poor.

Che Ibrahim said the \$1.42 billion allocation for education clearly demonstrated the government's sincerity in wanting to create citizens who are knowledgeable.

"The allocation for education will create thousands of skilled and specialised people who will be able to make Vision 2020 a reality in 30 years."

Datuk Basri Bajuri (BN Kuala Langat) said the Veterinary and Fisheries Departments should play a more effective role in helping the farmers and fishermen by teaching them new and modern techniques to increase their yields.

He said officials from the two departments must travel extensively to educate the

farmers and fishermen who were mostly using traditional farming and fishing techniques.

Datuk Basri said his constituency would also greatly benefit from the proposed international airport in Sepang and called on the Federal government and the Selangor state government to draw up a master-plan for the proper development of the airport area and its surroundings.

"Local residents must be trained early to take over jobs that will be made available when the airport project is completed," he said.

He added that many investors were reluctant to invest in rural and outlying areas because of poor transport and road facilities.

Roads leading to these areas must be improved if investors are to be attracted to the outlying areas.

"The Gufun-Bukit Kayu Hitam stretch of the expressway was given priority over the Ipoh-Tanjong Malim stretch which should be immediately improved as the traffic on that stretch is much greater," he said.

Datuk Basri said the government must improve road conditions to avoid congestion and prevent accidents.

Mr Tan Kok Wai (DAP-Sungei Besi) said the building of nine interchanges in

Kuala Lumpur, especially the Cheras interchanges, has not improved the traffic situation.

He said the Government should review the toll imposition at the Cheras toll plaza although the rates have been reduced.

Mr Tan also called on the Government to make public the terms and conditions of the contract for the concession holders. Metramac Sdn Bhd.

In relation to this, he also welcomed the Government's efforts on privatisation but questioned its sincerity as most of the privatised projects have apparently been awarded to companies with Umno connections.

He said the Government should conduct open tenders for the projects.

Mr Kang Chow Oh (BN-Kluang) welcomed the Budget proposals but said that more aid should be given to the poor and aged.

He hoped that aid for the aged would be increased from the present \$30 to \$75 or \$100 a month.

He said this was possible as the National Unity and Social Development Ministry has set aside \$19.6 million of its proposed \$128 million allocation for the Caring Society concept.