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VITAL PROJECTS WILL ONLY BE CONTINUED, SAYS MAHATHIR'''

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XUALA TERENGGANU, July 14, (Bernama) ⁹² (P)

-- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today only vital Sixth Malaysia, Plan projects will be continued because present expenditure, has exceeded the budget for the plan.

He said this financial pressure had forced the government to spend more carefully with efforts concentrated on, implementation of infrastructure projects.

Vital projects under the Sixth Plan included the laying of railway tracks, building of airports and education projects, the Prime Minister said.

The Government would depend more on the private sector to provide other facilities that were needed, he told reporters after attending a **briefing** on Terengganu's development at the Menara Perbadanan Memajukan Iktisad Negeri Terengganu (PMINT) here.

Federal Cabinet Ministers were also present at the hour-long briefing given by Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad. -- more.

▼14/07/18-42MST

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Vital projects 2 Kuala Terengganu (correcting spelling for vital)

Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government would consider the application from the Terengganu Government for the expansion of the Sultan Mahmud Airport.

Briefing the Prime Minister, Wan Mokhtar sought \$34 million for the building of a new terminal building for the airport and extension of the airport runway.

The Prime Minister hit out at certain Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) for frequently 'obstructing development projects.

He accused them of preventing the poor from achieving progress.

The NGO people stayed in well off areas made possible through development and by right they should think of progress for areas where the poor lived, he added.

+To obstruct a project altogether so as to preserve the natural environment in an area ... the natural environment of the people in the area is poverty, he said. -- more

▼14/07/19-08MST

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Vital projects 3 (last) Kuala Terengganu

He said this was pressure from developed countries which did not want this country to progress.

The Prime Minister said he was satisfied with the way the Terengganu Government was spending its income on development projects particularly infrastructure projects for the people.

Revenue from gas and oil had been used in the interest of the people and it was hoped that the people in Terengganu would appreciate this.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived here today, for a four-day visit to Terengganu, would chair a meeting of the Federal Cabinet here tomorrow.

The Menteri Besar hosted a reception for the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers at his residence here tonight.

-- Bernama

14/07/19-04MST