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PM WANTS PEKAN RABU TO BE A UNIQUE SHOPPING CENTRE

Mahathir-Pekan Rabu

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ALOR SETAR, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants Pekan Rabu here to be a unique shopping complex which can attract foreign tourists.

He said the complex, set up for bumiputera traders, should be different from others.

The government was prepared to spend money to improve Pekan Rabu to ensure that foreign tourists knew of its existence, he said when meeting members of the Pekan Rabu Cooperative here today.

However, the change depended on their attitude and would only succeed if they traded their traditional business methods for the modern, he said. Dr Mahathir recently called on the cooperative's committee to obtain a written confirmation from all the traders there who wanted changes to be introduced by the government. All, except one, signed. -- more

▼22/10/22-32MST

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Mahathir-Pekan Rabu 2 Alor Setar

Dr Mahathir said it was a waste if Pekan Rabu, which was strategically situated smack in the centre of the town, to be concerned only with petty businesses,

*I want Pekan Rabu to be on par or a little lower than the commercial enterprises, surrounding it, + he added.

The Prime Minister said he had seen the sundry business methods in Japan and was impressed by the cleanliness and well-organised arrangement of goods there..

In this aspect., the government was prepared to bring in Japanese experts to improve the situation at Pekan Rabu, he said.

Dr Mahathir said he had no other intention than to see the Malays in Pekan Baru succeed. -- more

▼22/10/22-41MST

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Mahathir-Pekan Rabu 3 (last) Alor Setar

The Prime Minister had hawked +goreng pisang+ and home-made ginger ale in Pekan Rabu when he was young.

He had in the past frequently criticised Pekan Rabu's disorganised, filthy and crowded stalls,

Meanwhile, the cooperative chairman, Encik Mustafa Ismail, said -that the traders there wanted change as many of them were young and were second generation traders of Pekan Baru. -- Bernama

▼22/10/22-49MST