

Umno to monitor how Kelantan uses grants

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MACHANG, Fri. — Kelantan Umno has set up a special committee to monitor the spending of grants channelled to the Pas-led Kelantan Government by the Federal Government, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the committee would keep a close watch on how the grants were spent to ensure that they were not used for the wrong purposes.

He reminded Pas not to try to gain political mileage by channelling the Federal grants only to its supporters.

"The money is for the people...it's not for the Government," Dr Mahathir said at a Press conference after opening the Kelantan Umno convention at Sekolah Menengah Hamzah here today.

Dr Mahathir also answered questions on the lack of investment in Kelantan and the blame put on the Federal Government by certain State leaders for the

problem.

He said the main reason for the lack of investment in the State was investors' lack of confidence in the State Government.

Such a situation, he said, also prevailed in Sabah which is also ruled by an opposition party.

He said investors had decided to invest in other States, including Kedah and Perlis, rather than in the two.

Asked about the State Government's plans to approve the sale of liquor by a duty-free outlet in Rantau Panjang, Dr Mahathir said this was the State's policy all along although it tried not to make it public.

Asked whether he would step down as the Kelantan Umno liaison chief now that party unity in the State had been enhanced, Dr Mahathir said the time had not come for him to relinquish the post.

He said it had nothing to do with party unity. Rather it was because of the poor relations between the State and Federal Governments.

On the proposed launch of

the "Kampungku" programme in Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said it would be carried out after the rainy season.

Earlier, in his speech, he said Umno would initiate efforts to reunite the people of Kelantan with the aim of wresting back power from the Pas-led Government.

He said it was not impossible to achieve the objective.

He said the party had harmed Kelantan and retarded its development and it was the responsibility of all Umno members to criticise and expose Pas' wrongdoings.

He said it was not impossible to achieve that objective.

"We will try to reunite the people so that we will become stronger once again and recapture Kelantan," he said to loud applause from the crowd of Umno members and supporters from the Barisan Nasional component parties.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Information Minister Datuk

Mohamed Rahmat, representatives of various States' Umno and senior Government officials.

Dr Mahathir also said that Umno would continue to lead the rakyat, including the people of Kelantan, to achieve the targets of Vision 2020 to turn the country into a developed nation.

Dr Mahathir explained that Malaysia did not want developed nation status like that achieved by America or Japan. It wants to become a developed nation without sacrificing its religion and culture.

Some nations, in pursuit of development, have not only completely disregarded their religion but their moral values as well.

By becoming a developed nation, Malaysia will be able to help countries like Bosnia and Somalia to overcome the crises which had befallen them, he said.

Dr Mahathir said that Pas was making fun of the Government's Vision 2020 and had misled the people with its own so-called *Wawasan Akhirat* (Vision for the Hereafter).

He said the party's *Wawasan Akhirat* was only meant for the people while its leaders have a separate vision of becoming Menteri Besar and State Exco members.

Dr Mahathir said the Pas vision had absolutely nothing to do with religion but was purely a political gimmick.

He said Umno had never said that its vision was solely for acquiring material gains but had stressed that there would be a balance of physical and spiritual achievement.

On Semangat 46, Dr Mahathir said the party had lost its influence with a large number of its followers leaving it, some rejoining Umno. Those remaining are just passive members.

Very soon, he said, it will end up as a one-man party.

The Umno president also hoped that one day Malaysia would become a superpower.

Dr Mahathir said this might not be achieved today or tomorrow or even in the Year 2020. But it is not impossible that this can be achieved some day.