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Mahathir-regret (with pix)

PM REGRETS KELANTAN GOVT'S ORDER NOT TO COOPERATE

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed regret over reports that the Kelantan government prohibited state and federal government officers in the state from cooperating with federal ministers in any matter.

The Prime Minister said that by this action the PAS-led Kelantan government was only putting off development in the state because some of the development depended on assistance from the federal government.

"If it is true that they are doing this, then it is saddening because much of the development depends on federal government approval and assistance," he told reporters at an "open house" for VIPs at Sri Perdana here. The Prime Minister had held "open house" for the public yesterday.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Annuar Musa had said yesterday that reports reaching him indicated that the Kelantan government had resorted to such action, and that the matter would be brought to the attention of the Cabinet.

Dr Mahathir described the move as politically motivated, and said that if the state government did not have links with the federal government, development projects in Kelantan would be hampered and this would only bring hardship to the people. -- more

▼26/03/15-09MST

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Mahathir-regret 2 Kuala Lumpur

He advised federal government officers to continue to cooperate and abide by all federal government directives in any situation.

Annuar had said that the state authorities had asked state and federal officers not to provide any facility for any function attended by federal ministers.

Dr Mahathir warned that stern action would be taken against any federal government officer found to be not adhering to federal government directives.

"We (the federal government) pay their salaries (and therefore they should follow the federal government directives)," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he wanted to have further details on this latest action of the Kelantan government. -- more

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Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, entertained several Cabinet ministers, ambassadors and other VIPs at the "open house".

Among those who called on the Prime Minister and his wife were former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam and former Sri Lankan Prime Minister Puan Sirimavo Bandaranaike. -- Bernama