

CNS5621

R GE 30-01 00168 EA799

eng

Mahathir-Bakun

BAKUN PROJECT TO BENEFIT SARAWAK

94  
KUCHING, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Bakun Hydro Electric Power (HEP) project, to be implemented near Belaga in Kapit Division would benefit the people of Sarawak as a whole.

The prime minister said the project would contribute more to the development of the state than just as a hydro-electric power station.

Besides being able to supply cheap electricity to Sarawak and the whole country, the lake, created by the project could also be utilised for other activities, he said when launching the project, here.

He said the RM15 billion project proved that Sarawak could grow in terms of economic performance.

He said the project might destroy some trees and animals and displace some people but "to get the desired achievement for the well-being of the people later on, some price has got to be paid now." -- more

AHM JK

▼30/01/17-05MST

CNS5623

R GE 30-01 00129 EA800

eng

Mahathir-Bakun 2 Kuching

At the same time, he said, there would also be some people who were against the project.

These people, he said, were those who had destroyed their own forests and had been enjoying cheap electricity.

"Having destroyed their own country, they are now telling us not to destroy our country...not to remove the trees from the dam site to enjoy the electricity, which we need," he said.

Dr Mahathir added: "I think it is hypocrisy to tell us not to chop down our trees. These people, who incited our people to go against the project, should pull down their dams if they are really sincere (to preserve their trees)". -- more

AHM JK

▼30/01/17-07MST

CNS5645

R GE 30-01 00171 EB531

eng

Mahathir-Bakun 3 (last) Kuching

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said the project, the federal government's biggest contribution to Sarawak since independence, was a model of the successful cooperation between the federal and state governments.

With such close cooperation, development could be brought to and enjoyed by the people in the long term, he said.

He said the Bakun project had shown the people the need to practise mutual trust and had proved the federal government's sincerity.

"Some quarters hold the old-fashioned notion that the federal government is out to rob (us). This proves that their views are wrong," Taib said.

Taib said once the project was completed, Sarawak would become the biggest energy producer in the country enabling it to supply power to other states.

The project will be undertaken by Ekran Bhd, making it the biggest privatisation project in the country. It is scheduled for completion in 10 years. -- Bernama

010 000