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Mahathir-passport

GOVT TO REVIEW USE OF PASSPORT TO VISIT SABAH

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KOTA KINABALU, April 3 (Bernama) -- The regulation requiring Malaysians from Peninsular Malaysia to use passports to visit Sabah will be looked into. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said he felt that the ruling could hamper tourist travel and was contrary to the government's desire to promote domestic tourism.

"The government wants to see many Malaysians coming to Sabah to foster closer relations between people in the peninsula and Sabah and Sarawak," he told a news conference before returning to Kuala Lumpur after a two-day visit to Sabah.

He said the regulation was abolished during the rule of the Berjaya government which was defeated in 1985 by the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS). But the PBS reintroduced certain provisions to retain the use of the passport by Malaysians in the peninsula visiting Sabah.

The regulation on the use of the passport was a pre-condition imposed by Sabah and Sarawak when they joined Malaysia in 1963. -- more

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On the abolition of several federal departments and agencies, Dr Mahathir said that so far there had been no proposals on the matter.

"We have to make a study on what is necessary and what is not. We will keep what is necessary and abolish what is not," he said.

He said of more importance was close cooperation between the federal and state governments and the question of departments and agencies were not an issue in the matter.

Asked about the direction the Sabah Foundation would take under the Barisan Nasional (BN) government, he said its role was connected with the sharing of wealth among the people.

He said the foundation should be wealthy and able to contribute to the development of Sabah.

Sharing of wealth did not mean giving cash to all the people but giving benefits to the people at all times, including development, he said. --

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