

PM: Handle Kedah project with care

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KUALA TERENGGANU: The RM17 billion Jerai International Park project in Kedah must be handled with extreme care or else it would adversely affect the Federal Government and even Umno, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned yesterday.

The Prime Minister said the Government was conducting an in-depth study concerning the background of the companies involved.

"So far, we have gathered the same information as has been published in the press. We must look into the project in detail, the

background of those involved and whether the project is feasible or not and get the reaction of the community.

"If the project is not carried out with care it can affect the Government and even Umno," he told reporters here after closing a seminar on *Islam and Vision 2020*.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on the massive project, which will cover 2,520ha of land.

The project will be implemented by Syarikat Eksklusif Sdn Bhd and Duta Point Sdn Bhd.

Asked if the federal authorities would issue guidelines to state governments when it comes to

such huge projects, he said there was no such guideline now.

"If they (state and companies involved) can, then do it. But if the company has only a capital of RM2 then there is no need to have a billion ringgit project," he said.

On his two-day visit to Terengganu, Dr Mahathir said:

"I see good potential for growth especially with the plans to revamp Kuala Terengganu and the other projects relating to tourism on the mainland and the islands."

Dr Mahathir said it was not true that the Government gave less to Terengganu in allocations for projects.