

CNS6308

U GE 19-04 00166 EA899

aae the

Mahathir-Jerai

CANCELLATION OF JERAI PARK PROJECT A WISE DECISION, SAYS DR M

bm

94
KUALA LUMPUR, April 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the cancellation of the proposed Jerai International Park (JIP) project in Kedah was a wise decision because many people, particularly the land-owners, were against it.

It is the government policy not to undertake any project against the wishes of the people, he told reporters after presenting excellence service awards to Home Ministry staff, here.

Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff announced the cancellation of the RM17-billion project last week following the protests.

Dr Mahathir advised state governments which wanted to implement massive development projects to determine the capability of the companies which proposed the projects.

He also said that the state governments must ascertain the impact of the project on the land-owners, whether they benefited or otherwise. --

more

MSZ MGN

▼19/04/14-28MST

CNS6318

U GE 19-04 00186 EA900

aae the

Mahathir-Jerai 2 Kuala Lumpur

"Even in Langkawi, we have acquired much land for tourism projects but there have been no protests from the land-owners," he said.

At the same time, he said, the government also reclaimed land from the sea so that it did not have to acquire land from owners.

On a directive by Barisan Nasional secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat for all component parties to be prepared for a general election, Dr Mahathir said the preparation usually took as much as two years and that the government had until December next year to hold a general election.

"We prepare ourselves so that we can spring a surprise; I hope the opposition parties can prepare themselves and make heavy investments for a general election," he said.

On a Philippines' proposal to forge a North Asian Development Quadrangle comprising Luzon (Philippines), Taiwan, Hong Kong/Southern China and Okinawa (Japan), Dr Mahathir said that was the right of the Philippines and did not undermine any project carried out by Malaysia. -- more

MSZ MGN

▼19/04/14-41MST

CNS6329

U GE 19-04 00106 EA901

aae the

Mahathir-Jerai 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

In his speech at the presentation ceremony, Dr Mahathir said excellence in one's occupation should be made a culture.

He said a culture of excellence could be developed easily if excellence became habitual in work and life.

The prime minister presented the awards to 46 staff of the Home Ministry, three from the Registry of Societies and two from the Department of Civil Defence.

Also present was Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub and the ministry's secretary-general Datuk Abdul Rahim Din. -- Bernama