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Mahathir-Obstruct

CUT RED TAPE TO SPEED UP DEVELOPMENT, SAYS PM

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LANGKAWI, May 29 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has progressed rapidly because the government cooperates with the private sector by cutting bureaucratic red tape, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Malaysia now is seeing rapid development not because it could not be done in the past or the private sector then was not interested but because they were hampered by all sorts of bureaucratic obstructions," he told reporters at the Langkawi International Airport at the end of a two-day visit here.

He was accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

Dr Mahathir was asked to elaborate on his call to relevant authorities not to show off their powers by overzealous actions which hampered the smooth and speedy implementation of development projects.

He made the call when launching Ekran Berhad's RM1 billion Port Langkasuka marina development project at Kuala Muda here yesterday. -- more KHY CTL

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Dr Mahathir said the relevant authorities sometimes did not approve a particular project not because it did not deserve to be approved but for other reasons.

"This makes it so difficult to develop Malaysia. But when the government adopts a cooperative attitude towards the private sector, development progresses rapidly, the people gain many benefits and the world is impressed.

"If we persist in the old ways, wishing to show what little powers we have without caring for the interest of the country, it will be hard to develop Malaysia like in the past," he said.

He said there was no difference between the situation in the past and the present except in the changed attitude.

"The federal government has formulated a Malaysia Incorporated policy and we do not want to interfere with or obstruct people just for the sake of wishing to show off our powers. Rather, we must act positively. -- more KHY CTL

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"If we think something is good, we should rectify whatever errors it may contain to smoothen implementation of projects," he said.

On the possibility that officers took an obstructive attitude in deference to directives from certain quarters, Dr Mahathir said these "quarters" should not issue such instructions.

"All should have only one purpose, and that is to ensure Malaysia progresses rapidly and become a model to the world to show that we know how to run our country.

"In the past people perceived us as incapable of governing ourselves and predicted that our economy would deteriorate after independence, but we have proven that we can run the country more efficiently," he said.

He said Malaysia could achieve even greater progress if all accepted the Malaysia Incorporated concept and did not concern themselves too much with status or other matters. -- Bernama KHY CTL