

Way to ensure further growth for country

LANGKAWI, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said bureaucratic obstructions must be eliminated if the nation is to be further developed.

He said Malaysia could have gone through the developing era in the past but it was hampered by bureaucratic procedures and other obstructions.

"It was not because of lack of interest among the private sector to develop the country, the obstacle was the various bureaucratic obstructions," Dr Mahathir told reporters at the Langkawi International Airport here at the end of his visit to the island.

The Prime Minister was asked to elaborate on his statement at the launching of the RM1 billion Port Langkasuka project where he called on all relevant parties to co-operate positively to ensure the smooth implementation of development projects.

Dr Mahathir had said yesterday that the relevant authorities should eliminate the negative habit of trying to show off their powers by taking unnecessary and overzealous actions which could hamper the progress of development projects.

The Prime Minister said it was difficult to develop the country in the past because some State Governments were not willing to provide easy passage to developers for certain reasons or other.

"But the Government has since taken a stand to co-operate with the private sector under the Malaysian Incorporated concept to develop the country and today the world is impressed by our pace of development."

Dr Mahathir reminded that if the old style was retained, it would be difficult to develop the country.

"We should not hamper development merely to show off our powers.

"We must have a positive attitude. If we think that the project is good and we have made a mistake, we should rectify it and facilitate its implementation.

"Everybody should inculcate this attitude so that we could be the model to the world," he added.