

# State-Federal relations can bring progress

KOTA BARU, Wed. — Relations between the Federal and State Governments will improve bringing added benefits to Kelantan if the people vote Barisan Nasional into power in the general election, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said Kelantan would progress at a faster pace in tandem with other States if there was better co-operation between both Governments.

"The Federal Government is willing to allocate additional funds for the development of the State as we did for Sabah," he said during the opening of a religious school hostel in Melor, 21km from here.

He stressed that new projects and programmes including the establishment of a university could be implemented almost immediately as the Government had already earmarked the funds for it.

He also criticised religious leaders who imposed upon their followers to address them as *Tok Guru* which showed that they took pride in being praised.

"In Islam, there is no need for a religious leader to tell his followers whether he should be addressed as *Tok Guru* or not.

"To be called a Datuk, you need to receive the title from others, only then can you be addressed so.

"Likewise in the case of a *Tok Guru*, if one is a genuine religious leader, his followers will call him so without having to be asked," he said.

Earlier, State Umno deputy liaison chief Datuk Annuar Musa who addressed the gathering, said Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat had issued a circular that he be addressed as *Tok Guru* three days after his appointment as Menteri Besar.

Dr Mahathir said only religious leaders who do not have the qualities of a true Islamic leader would impose on others to address them as *Tok Guru* and added that they also claimed to be smarter than others.

He said Pas leaders showed no appreciation of efforts by the Federal Government in ensuring continuous peace and prosperity in the country.

He added that although Muslims made up less than 60 per cent of the population here, they were able to live peacefully and practise their religion without fear from any quarters.

He said it was unbecoming of Nik Aziz, who claims to be a religious leader, to preach to the people that bad mouthing and condemning others were allowed in Islam.

"A genuine *Tok Guru* will not make such a statement. Only those with political interests will do so," he added.