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Mahathir-Project

GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION TO IGNORE THE PEOPLE'S INTEREST

LANGKAWI, June 29 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government does not intend to ignore the people's interests in all matters, especially those involving infrastructure projects.

In fact all infrastructure projects were solely aimed as making life more comfortable for all the people in the country, he said.

"We, be it the federal or state government, have no other intention except to make life easy for the people. What we do is only for the people including sometimes projects that we carry out without first asking the people.

"We do this because we believe the people can and will figure out that the project is good for them," he said at a "Leader with the People" gathering at the Matsirat pasar malam site, here.

For example, the prime minister said, when the government decided to give duty-free status to Langkawi, the people's views were not sought.

"The Langkawi residents at that time were not even asked whether they were happy with the government's decision but we did it because we know it is for the good of the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was now clear that the government had made the correct decision and Langkawi now enjoyed progress undreamt of by its residents.

"The Langkawi residents have enjoyed many benefits like continuous business opportunities and high land values.

"We find many of the islanders who previously had only wooden houses now having brick houses and Padang Matsirat now has a big and modern airport.

"That is our intention everytime we decide on a project, to make the people's lives easy and comfortable," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that similarly, when the government proposed to build a dam to generate electricity, it was not to glorify itself but was for the people.

"We do it because we want to be respected by the world. We want the world to recognise us and our ability, not because we want to glorify ourselves," he said.

Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, his wife, Datin Seri Inangda Mayang Keumala, and Langkawi MP Datuk Haji Abu Bakar Taib. The prime minister's wife, Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali was also present. --

BERNAMA

ZAA JK