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Sanusi-Development

PM WANTS PEOPLE-ORIENTED PROGRAMMES FOR KEDAH

KUALA LUMPUR, June 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has told Kedah's new Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid to implement programmes that benefit the people, state and country.

Among other things, the Prime Minister wants Sanusi to give priority to the "one village, one product" programme and to encourage mosque-based activities for the community.

Sanusi told reporters this after making a courtesy call on Dr Mahathir at the Prime Minister's Department here today.

The 30-minute meeting was the first between them since Sanusi was sworn in as Menteri Besar replacing Tan Sri Osman Aroff on June 16. Dr Mahathir, who was then on vacation overseas, returned from his 17-day trip yesterday.

Sanusi said the Prime Minister asked him to visit Fukuoka, Japan, to get a first-hand look at the "one village, one product" programme to help in its implementation in Kedah.

"He asked me to go to Japan and see what is being done there because I have heard a lot about the programme but have yet to see it," he said.

Sanusi said whether the programme could succeed largely depended on the adoption of the right approach in implementation and creation of an effective marketing network.

To promote mosque-based activities, Sanusi said he intended to compel all Muslim students to spend two hours nightly at mosques or suraus to perform prayers and revise their lessons.

This would strengthen their attachment to mosques from a young age and keep them away from unhealthy activities, he said.

"By spending time in mosques, they not only can perform their religious obligations but also can revise their lessons or do their school work without any distraction," he said.

Sanusi said he also planned to build sepak takraw courts at mosques throughout the state and swimming pools at selected mosques.

He said the consent of the mosque administration was needed to implement this move which is aimed at drawing the younger set closer to mosques.

On the impending Kedah state Exco reshuffle, Sanusi said the names and portfolios of those selected had been submitted to Dr Mahathir.

The Prime Minister agreed with the names proposed and gave his views on the appointments, he said.

Asked when the reshuffle would be made, Sanusi said: "That's a secret. I could wait for 14 months, don't tell me they can't wait for another week or two," he said. -- BERNAMA

AH YBY