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Muhammad-kampung

SELANGOR TO BE CATALYST FOR DEVELOPING FUTURISTIC VILLAGE

BANTING, Jan 20 (Bernama) -- Selangor is prepared to become the catalyst in the development of the futuristic village that still maintains traditional values and ethics despite its advancement in modern technology and economy, said Menteri Besar, Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhamad Taib.

He said the state government would make Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision of creating such villages a reality that could speed up Malaysia's efforts towards becoming a developed nation in its own fashion.

"The Prime Minister once stressed the need to develop a futuristic village which had urban physical development but maintaining the old social values of the kampung," he said at a function in conjunction with the "Village Visit By Leaders" Programme at Kampung Endah, near here today.

The Prime Minister had visited Kampung Endah to be closer with the people under a programme carrying the theme, "Striving Together Towards A Modern, Attractive and Productive Village", organised by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Muhammad said the futuristic village would be equipped with modern infrastructure and the villagers pursuing modern economic activities such as operating small- and medium-industries employing modern technology.

The Menteri Besar said the village would also have a resource centre that could be used for reference by visitors as well as becoming a model to other villages.

"The villagers will maintain traditional kampung values like respect for others, indulging in gotong-royong, using the mosque to guide the people towards perfection and moulding youths who are not only active but also capable in rejecting negative lifestyle," he said.

Kampung Endah, located on a 1,185-hectare site with 1,610 residents occupying 236 homes, was a remote settlement in 1952 but has now acquired some of the characteristics of a futuristic village.

The Prime Minister was impressed with the efforts of the residents in using prize money that they won in implementing projects that benefited every resident and had cooperated to collect RM50 from each resident every month since April 1987 to amass RM2.21 million.

The money will be used to buy part of an estate nearby to expand their village and to embark on a housing project. The foundation stone for the project was laid by Dr Mahathir during the visit.

Muhammad said the state government would charge a minimum premium on the land for the project to show its appreciation to the people of Kampung Endah for their perseverance.

In conjunction with the visit, the Prime Minister presented special prizes to the villagers including the Village Leadership Award to Haji Sairon Abdul Hamid, former State Assemblyman for Batu Laut who is now advisor to the Village Development and Security Committee.

Another award recipient was the imam of the village mosque since it was opened, Haji Taib Marlon while Puan Tukiah Mohd Alias, who was born in 1910, received the special award for the aged and Encik Misran Khalil received the special award for owning the model home. -- BERNAMA