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Mahathir-Gateway

TAKE GOOD CARE OF JOHOR BAHARU AS MALAYSIA'S GATEWAY, SAYS PM

JOHOR BAHARU, July 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight stressed the importance of taking good care of Johor Baharu as the gateway to Malaysia to keep it beautiful and to impress the visitors.

The biggest number of tourists entered Malaysia through Johor Baharu and as such, it was important that this gateway be looked after properly and kept beautiful so that it could be something to be proud as well to impress the visitors.

Speaking at a dinner at the Menteri Besar's residence, Saujana, held in conjunction with his visit to Johor, he said past state leaders had made many plans to develop the town and the present government was also working towards this end.

Dr Mahathir said he would give whatever support he could to efforts to make Johor Baharu a beautiful gateway.

He said his visit to Johor was to view the development achieved so far.

"From what I see, there is no doubt that Johor Baharu has the potential to become the second biggest town in Malaysia," he said.

"Johor may achieve its vision earlier than the year 2000, 2005 or 2010 but we are not jealous because it is part of Malaysia," he said.

Dr Mahathir added that when any place in Malaysia achieved success, all the people should feel proud because it was their country.

As such, he said, as the federal leader he gave attention to Johor although he seldom visited the state.

He said Johor was a special state in terms of its history as well as its role in the establishment of Umno.

Present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar and Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

-- BERNAMA

MKO JK