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Mahathir-Development

DEVELOPMENT IS FOR THE PEOPLE- DR MAHATHIR

ALOR SETAR, April 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reiterated today that the government has planned and implemented development projects solely for the benefit of the people and the nation.

It was not the government's intention to victimise the people but was only interested in ensuring their comfort and bringing prosperity to them, he said.

"The people should not reject development but they should learn and accept changes so that they can adapt themselves to their surroundings," he said when addressing the people at the Kuala Kedah fishing resettlement near here.

Earlier the Prime Minister was briefed on the state government's plans for the development of Kuala Kedah as a new township and the construction of flats to house more than 600 fishermen's families affected by the development programme.

"The Government has no other intention other than helping the people to adapt themselves to modern day life...in the past we followed methods prevailing then but now we live in a different way," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government did not want to see the people continue to live in squatter houses and face problems.

He said living in squatter houses was not comfortable and did not reflect the situation in the country which had achieved progress.

He advised the people, especially Kuala Kedah residents, involved in the resettlement to accept changes which were inevitable and be prepared for a new era in their lives.

"We cannot go on staying on free government land in squatters...how long are we going to live in this disorganised way which is very inconvenient."

Dr Mahathir said he heard rumours that some were objecting to the construction of flats but then he pointed out that this was more profitable as it could save land costs and could accommodate a large number of people.

Dr Mahathir said the Kedah Government was working on a programme to enable the affected residents to own the flats.

"Don't be afraid, the government is not out to victimise the people. If we abide by the plans and the government's requirements, we can surely resolve the problems."

"We want the fishermen to live more comfortably. If they earn a meagre income, we have ways to supplement their income," he said.

Four blocks of flats, with various modern facilities, would be built in the fishermen's resettlement area. -- BERNAMA

MFJ AAM