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Mahathir-Kedah

KEDAH HAS MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER GROWTH

ALOR SETAR, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- Kedah which is behind certain states in development has vast opportunities for growth if it is prepared to adopt new approaches, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Development was not difficult to achieve if everyone was willing to work hard, he said.

"We should strive towards Kedah achieving even greater progress and I believe this can be done. We should also ponder on what else could be done," he said when addressing leaders of Kedah Barisan Nasional component parties.

The Kedah people should ask why it was still lagging behind other states even though it had produced two Prime Ministers.

He said in Malaysia the various states were competing to achieve rapid development such as Johor, Selangor and Pulau Pinang which had attained remarkable success.

"Some may think that these states had advantages such as Johor being near Singapore and Pulau Pinang having developed long before."

"However states which did not have these advantages had also overtaken Kedah," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government had striven to bring investment to Kedah such as the setting up of the Perwaja Steel Mill and motorcycle plant, Motosikal and Enjin Nasional (Modenas) in Gurun.

He urged state assemblymen and state executive councillors to pool their resources and think of ways to bring progress to Kedah.

Dr Mahathir urged the public sector to reduce bureaucratic red tape and speed up applications for development projects.

The Prime Minister also said Kedah's flat land would facilitate the laying of tracks for high speed trains, which would contribute to the state's development and bring it on par with others.

On the state government's move to make mosques centres for community activities, he said it was a very positive move.

"Muslims should be wise enough to divide their time for prayers and other duties as this will bring glory to the Ummah," he said. -- BERNAMA

MZM MFJ AAM