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Gatra-Malaysia

MALAYSIA FAR AHEAD OF INDONESIA, SAYS GATRA

KUALA LUMPUR, June 17 (Bernama) -- Gatra, Indonesia's most influential weekly news magazine, has conceded that Malaysia, once described by Indonesians as "kid brother", is developing far ahead of the largest country in Southeast Asia.

According to Gatra, in a commentary published in its latest issue, one of the factors for Malaysia's success story is the effort of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to arouse the spirit of self-confidence in Malaysians through the rallying slogan "Malaysia Boleh" (Malaysia Can Do It).

Another factor is the determination not to be inferior to Singapore through the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) project as well as turning Port Klang to compete with Singapore as among the world's best ports.

Efforts to turn Malaysia into an information age nation is not merely day-dreaming because Malaysia is one of the most aggressive countries in sending its citizens to study abroad.

Gatra said like it or not, Indonesia has to say "well done" to Malaysia.

Malaysia could also harness its energies to enhance its capability even further.

"But the Indonesia that we once regarded as elder brother to the extent that we were a centre of learning and reference, now seems to be out of contention," said Gatra in a commentary seen as a rare gesture of compliments.

The magazine said Indonesia should not be "angered" by Malaysia's success because Malaysia's all-round performance was better.

"Instead, if necessary, we should use Malaysia as a benchmark, just as Malaysia is doing towards Singapore," it said.

-- BERNAMA

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