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Mahathir-Ministers

MINISTERS TO TAKE ON SPECIAL DUTIES TO SPEED UP DEVELOPMENT

ALOR SETAR, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- The Federal Cabinet at its meeting yesterday has listed special duties for the ministers to help speed up Malaysia's economic development, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Some of the duties which the ministers would take on were new ones while the other duties were linked to the continuation of past development programmes, he said.

This move was expected to help accelerate Malaysia's economic growth, the Prime Minister said.

"I have told the ministers not to broadcast what we by right should do and hence I need not go into details of the duties," he told a news conference after a meeting with Kedah Barisan Nasional leaders at the end of his one-day working visit to his parliamentary constituency of Kubang Pasu.

Apart from speeding up economic development, the move was also likely to increase exports, reduce the deficit in the balance of payments and control inflation, he said.

The Government wanted to see the people have a bigger purchasing power through effective control of inflation apart from ensuring a higher per capita income for Malaysians, he said.

The various Federal strategies were also likely to be extended at state level, he said.

"I will discuss this with the Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers. This will also be raised at the Umno Supreme Council meeting on Sunday," he said.

On the proposed single school session and objections to it by a certain teachers' union, the Prime Minister said the government could not satisfy everyone.

The move was not aimed at causing anyone to lose out, he said.

"We give priority to the students but in this effort some feel that their interests are being ignored," he said.

He said if the government were to give priority to this group's interests then the students' interests would be jeopardised.

"We have a choice in this matter...do we give priority to the students or teachers' unions,?"

Dr Mahathir said many teachers were in favour of the proposal except the NUTP. -- BERNAMA

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