

11 MAR 1997

Mahathir-Allocation

MPs SHOULD NOT ASK FOR ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION FOR SOCIAL ILLS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today told elected representatives not to ask for an increase in the financial allocation for infrastructural facilities to overcome social problems.

The Prime Minister said elected representatives should play a proactive role to address the social problems without asking for additional allocation and instead inform the government about basic amenities that were needed such as football fields and recreation areas.

"As the Kedah people would say, they want to 'tumpang tui' or take advantage. We have social problems, they ask for additional allocation for elected representatives (to overcome the social problems) so that they become more popular.

"What's wrong if we just provide the playing field or other things without giving money to the elected representatives, the boys can still play...the important thing is not to give more allocation.

"More allocation will only make the representatives more popular but sometimes the elected representatives don't provide the facilities needed...the social problems still exist," he said during the dialogue session at the Premier Briefing on the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) and Social Problems at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

The briefing was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, leaders of the Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties, Cabinet ministers, deputy ministers and members of Parliament and State Assemblies from the BN.

Earlier, an elected representative asked the government to increase the financial allocation given to elected representatives to provide basic amenities which had not been provided in many rural areas thereby causing the youths in such areas to waste their time doing nothing gainful and getting involved in social problems.

He said the RM60,000 allocation given to elected representatives was inadequate to ensure that basic amenities in kampungs could be provided successfully.

The Prime Minister countered: "If there are not enough facilities, inform the government and if the government has the money, it will provide the facilities to them (the youths) and there is no necessity to give money through the wakil rakyat (for the purpose of providing facilities)."

He said the Rakan Muda programme was implemented to provide alternatives to the youths to choose activities which could benefit them.

He said the government was also planning for various activities involving youths and racing tracks for those keen on racing, programmes for uniformed units and national service for school leavers to provide provide certain community services.

The government was also making efforts to provide various basic amenities involving the Rakan Muda programme, he added.

Dr Mahathir reminded the elected representatives to strive for the interest of the party and not for political gain.

"We want our party only to be popular so the BN government will provide the facilities and hopefully when the government provides (them) the wakil rakyat will also get some of the support as this is the wakil rakyat's party and not the wakil rakyat personally," he said. -- BERNAMA

HS AO

