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PM: Pas inefficiency holding Kelantan back

PASIR PUTEH, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Kelantan could not develop due to the Pas State Government's administrative inefficiency.

He said Pas was only good at making promises. It did not do much to improve the livelihood of people or develop the State.

"They wanted to make Kelantan the corridor of Mecca and this they have said many times. But until now nothing has been done about it.

"Such promises are only meant to mislead the people," he said at a people's gathering and when closing the Kelantan Umno/Barisan Nasional Convention at Sekolah Menengah Cherang Ruku in Semerak today.

He advised the Kelantan people not to be influenced by Pas leaders.

He said the people should be wise and chose the right person as well as party as their elected representatives as that would determine their future.

Expressing sadness with the situation in Kelantan, which he said had not improved much since Pas took over the State Government, Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government would, within its capabilities, improve the situation.

He said it was also the Federal Government's hope to make Kelantan an exemplary Islamic State.

He added that the Federal Government would implement the necessary changes to bring about development in Kelantan.

However, he said the implementation would be carried out in constituencies which BN won.

"It is not that we do not want to do it in the other constituencies ... Not that we do not want to help ... When we do, they are not thankful," he added.

Later, questioned by reporters whether the Government would create a mufti post at the national level, the Prime Minister said it was difficult to implement.

"This is because the State Muftis, State Governments and the Rulers are of the opinion that religion is a State affair.

"However, they agree that Islamic laws must be standardised and applicable to all States," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the Government would propose to the Rulers that any fatwa (ruling) by the mufti be referred to a special committee which is not headed by a mufti to enable the members to discuss the fatwa at length before enforcing it.

"Currently, a mufti, as in the case of the Federal Territory, is also the chairman of the special committee to study the fatwa," he added.

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