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Annuar-Mahathir/BM

DR MAHATHIR GIVES PRIORITY TO PEOPLE'S INTERESTS - ANNUAR MUSA

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- The government's poverty eradication among the people, low-cost housing, hardcore poor assistance and economic growth programmes are the brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa said these programmes were implemented since Dr Mahathir became Prime Minister in 1981 and not only when Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim became the Finance Minister.

He denied claims by certain groups that Dr Mahathir was only keen on mega projects.

Dr Mahathir frequently asked the relevant authorities to initiate programmes that would benefit the people, he told reporters after briefing Kelantan Umno Youth and Wanita members on current political issues here today.

The strongest evidence of Dr Mahathir's able leadership was his ability to pull out the country from the recession in the 1980s when many people became poor and graduates were jobless, said Annuar, who is also Kelantan Umno deputy chief.

On plans by PAS to list down the abolition of the Internal Security Act (ISA) as part of its manifesto for the next general election, he said the government had never abused ISA for its own interest.

He said the government only invoked the ISA to detain people involved in activities prejudicial to national security.

He also urged Umno members to be wary against the DAP and PAS which were cashing in to solicit sympathy from Anwar's expulsion from the government and Umno.

On the briefing, Annuar said he urged the Kelantan Umno Youth to give full support to the Acting Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein to enable him to pursue the movement's agenda.

-- BERNAMA

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