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Assembly-Kelantan

ECONOMIC RECOVERY:KELANTAN PLEDGES FULL SUPPORT FOR PM

KOTA BAHARU, March 2 (Bernama) -- PAS-controlled Kelantan is giving full support to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's efforts to steer the country towards full recovery from the current economic setbacks, the State Legislative Assembly was told today.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat told the House:"Such support is crucial as the state government puts national interests first over that of the party."

In this context, Nik Aziz said, the state committee of the National Economic Action Council (NEAC), which he chairs, has been aggressively embarking on efforts to regain investor confidence.

"What the state committee is doing is in line with what the NEAC is implementing," Nik Aziz said during question time at the assembly's first sitting for the fourth term here.

Nik Aziz was replying to questions relating to measures towards economic recovery raised by government back-benchers Hussein Ahmad (PAS-Tendong) and Hanafi Daud (PAS-Chetok).

State Agriculture, Rural Development and Rural Industries Committee chairman Omar Mohamad told the House more than RM200,000 has been allocated to develop 300 hectares of idle land to boost food production.

Replying to Mohamad Razali Che Mamat (BN-Guchil), Omar said the authorities were also promoting the one-village-one-product concept besides dividing the state into vegetable and fruit-farming zones.

Deputy Menteri Besar Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman said a RM1.55 billion deep-sea fishing township was being built in Tok Bali in Pasir Puteh under a joint-venture between the state economic development corporation and the private sector.

Abdul Halim, who is also the state Local Government, Housing, Science and Technology Committee chairman, said when completed the complex would be the country's largest deep-see fishing port, handling up to 70 per cent of the country's deep-sea trawler fleet.

"Presently 10 trawlers can simultaneously land their catch there," he said replying to Kamarudin Md Nor (BN-Semerak).

To a supplementary question from Aziz Derasid (BN-Pergau), Abdul Halim said the federal government has fully endorsed the project as it could help accelerate national economic growth.

State Islamic Development, Education, Missionary and Information Committee chairman Mohamed Daud said 442 Kelantan students would not be recalled from Jordan and Egypt despite the depreciating ringgit.

"Instead the Kelantan Islamic Foundation which sponsors them has been directed to increase the loan quantum for the students," he said replying to Mohamad Razali Che Mamat (BN-Guchil).-- BERNAMA

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