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Mahathir-Kelantan

DR M: NOT ALL GOVTS CAN BE EFFECTIVE AS PROVED BY PAS IN KELANTAN

PASIR MAS, Nov 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the PAS-led Kelantan government is proof that not everyone given a chance to form a government can administer the state efficiently.

The Prime Minister said this is evident in Kelantan for despite having intelligent and smart people, the state government had failed to bring about development and job opportunities.

The people had to look to other states to earn a living, he said.

"As such, PAS' claim all these while that any government can develop the country is not true," he said when speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the third bridge over Sungai Kelantan at Tendong-Wakaf Che Yeh, near here.

He said not all state governments could provide job opportunities including several neighbouring countries. This had resulted in two million foreign workers coming to Malaysia in search of jobs, he said.

Learned Kelantanese would not migrate to other places to find jobs if the PAS government could create adequate job opportunities, he said.

Dr Mahathir said other state governments in Malaysia looked up to the federal government how it could carry various development projects for the people's well-being.

Similarly, when Kelantan was under Alliance and later Barisan Nasional (BN), many infrastructure development projects such as schools and hospitals were built at high cost.

Even the Kemubu Agriculture Development Authority (KADA) was set up by the BN government to improve the agro sector, he said.

Dr Mahathir said building the RM166-million third bridge over Sungai Kelantan was not easy task as it required money, careful planning and monitoring which the PAS government was unable to do.

"We must remember it is not easy to implement a project like this. Not all governments in the world have adequate funds and even if they have, they were not efficient in managing their finances, rendering the projects to be abandoned," he said.

He said the Kelantan people could see for themselves and appreciate this project.

The federal government would also carry out a RM1.5-billion flood mitigation project at the Sungai Kelantan basin, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the BN government promises only what it could deliver to the people unlike PAS which promises everything merely to fish for votes.

He cited PAS' claim that whoever voted for BN would go to hell for five years.

"How does PAS leaders know, it is not they who are going to evaluate whether we do good or bad, PAS has no power at all," he said to a loud applause from thousands of audience.

Dr Mahathir said PAS leaders made many other promises which they knew very well they could not implement.

For instance, he said PAS promised to set up an Islamic state and implement hudud law knowing very well it could not do it because the party needed two-thirds majority in the Dewan Rakyat while the number of its candidates contesting in this election were inadequate to secure the required majority.

PAS leaders cannot enlist the support of DAP and Keadilan for the

purpose as the two parties opposed Islamic state and hudud law.

Dr Mahathir said PAS leaders had forked tongue and cannot be trusted as they would resort to whatever tactics and promises to frighten the people to vote for the party.

He reminded Kelantan people particularly Muslims that everyone was afraid to commit sins but do not be trapped by PAS' tricks to attribute its words to Islam.

The Prime Minister said it was PAS that actually rejected Islamic teachings by bravely labelling Umno members as infidels while Islam promotes brotherhood among fellow Muslims.

Dr Mahathir said PAS also taught the people not to be thankful to the BN government which had created ample job opportunities and provided scholarships for further studies.

Describing PAS supporters' fanatical attitude to "closing their eyes and ears to the good deeds and success of the BN government," he said it was unfortunate as attempts to explain the truth to them were rejected.

"They trust their leaders too much to the extent that they cannot see their leaders' weaknesses. They reject whatever truth we show them," he said.

He urged PAS supporters to think and see for themselves the truths surrounding them instead of being obsessed with their leaders.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir was accorded a traditional welcome by the locals who looked cheerful to see the prime minister in person.

Present were Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, State BN chairman Datuk Annuar Musa, Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

Construction work for the third bridge linking Tendong to Wakaf Che Yeh across Sungai Kelantan started in June and is scheduled to be completed in October 2002.

The flood mitigation project at the Sungai Kelantan basin would check floods in more than 80 per cent of the populated areas in the state.

The project expected to provide 2,000 job opportunities heralds the beginning of the development era in Kelantan in the new millennium.

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