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Dr Mahathir: Long-term planning vital for projects

KOTA BARU, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed the need for long-term planning in the implementation of projects.

He said projects should not be planned or implemented only to serve current needs or overcome existing problems or accommodate current needs.

"When planning projects, the Federal Government does not look only at the short-term needs, but also for the future.

"This is necessary to help us avoid having to do the same thing over and over again," he said at the laying of the foundation stone for the RM50 million Sultan Ismail Petra airport's expansion project in Pengkalan Chepa.

The project involves the construction of a two-storey airport terminal.

It will have a parking bay which can accommodate five 737 aircraft at any one time.

Dr Mahathir said the proposed terminal building would be the third to be built at the Sultan Ismail Petra airport to accommodate the increase in the passenger capacity.

"Had we given thought of the future needs of the airport, there is no need to do the same thing all over again," he added.

Citing the Kuala Lumpur International Airport project in Sepang, he said it was implemented to overcome congestion at the Subang airport.

"We cannot expand the airport in Subang anymore because there is no more land reserves," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the implementation of the KLIA and other major projects could not be interpreted as wasteful because they were planned to meet future needs.

Later, the Prime Minister presented a mock cheque for RM649,725 from the National Disaster Fund to be distributed among the 8,657 tobacco farmers in Kelantan who suffered losses due to crop damage.

At the function, Dr Mahathir also launched the book *Pas Pasti Tersungkur Di Kelantan, Insya-Allah (Pas Will Surely Collapse In Kelantan, God Willing)*, by Datuk Ariffin Abdul Hamid, who is the Kelantan BN secretary.

The 150-page book deals with various issues pertaining to the political development in Kelantan especially since the 1990 general election and the weaknesses of the Pas administration in the state.

He also witnessed the handing over of 225,000 BN flags to the 14 Umno divisions in Kelantan.

The flags were contributed by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah following his appointment as chairman of the Kelantan Umno liaison committee on June 20.

Also present were Transport Minister Datuk Seri Ling Liong Sik, Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa, Kelantan Umno liaison chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Malaysia Airport Berhad (MAB) chairman Tan Sri Basir Ismail.

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