

03 APR 1999
Mustapa-Kelantan
KELANTAN IN NEED OF HELP

JELI, April 3 (Bernama) -- The people in Kelantan is still in need of Federal government assistance, said Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

He said Kelantan, governed by the opposition, PAS, since 1990, would continue to receive its fair share of financial assistance as stipulated in the Constitution.

"The number of people in Kelantan living in poverty is still high, especially those in the rural areas," he told reporters here today.

Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat yesterday thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the RM600 million soft loan to the state to overcome its water supply problem faced since 1995.

"The Federal government and the Prime Minister are always sensitive to the need for assistance by the people in Kelantan," said Mustapa, the Kelantan Barisan Nasional (BN) deputy chairman.

"The people in Kelantan will be well taken care of if the BN is given the mandate in the state."

In PASIR PUTEH, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Nazri Tan Sri Aziz said the RM600 million soft loan given to Kelantan proved that the Federal government was ever ready to assist all, irrespective of their political leanings.

He said the loan was to ensure that the people in Kelantan would not continue to face problems which arose since PAS governed the state.

He said the financial assistance given also would not deter Umno from working towards forming the state government in the coming general election.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Ibrahim Ali said the soft loan to Kelantan showed that the BN is a responsible and caring government.

"This shows that the BN does not play politics like PAS," he said.

Ibrahim said the water supply problem in Kelantan was not yet over despite claims by the PAS-led state government that it is over.

"What has been settled so far is only on paper. The problem is not over as long as the people do not get their clean water supply," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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