

15 MAY 1999

Mahathir-Mega

MEGA PROJECTS NOT SEEN AS SUCH IN FUTURE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said mega projects implemented by the government will not be seen as such in future.

"What is seen as a mega project now will then be considered small in another 10 or 20 years. All development projects are not mega projects nor a waste, they are the efforts of a forward looking government," he said in opening the National Youth Day assembly at the Putra Stadium in Bukit Jalil here today.

He said the people might raise questions now on projects being implemented which were without long-term planning for their inability to meet the needs of the people.

Dr Mahathir said facilities are still limited despite the country progressing well and the people's rising income.

He said all facilities would be fully utilised as the country is experiencing rapid development coupled with a population increase.

"In 2009, Malaysia's population is expected to rise to 29 million people and by that time all the facilities built today will be fully utilised by the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said facilities built today are for the use of the future generation.

He said projects, such as the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), were long-term government planning and not mega projects which lead to wastage.

He gave examples of the construction of the international airport in Subang (now renamed Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport) and Merdeka Stadium built when Malaysia achieved independence and which were then criticised as a wastage.

Dr Mahathir said the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport could no longer handle the rise in passenger capacity and the government thus built the KLIA which could handle a capacity of up to 125 million passengers a year in future.

"We have our Vision 2020 and we plan developments for the long term. Vision 2020 is not put forward in the interest of its originators as by then, the originators would no longer be alive," he said.

He added that leaders who planned developments for their own benefit were shallow-minded as such plannings did not take into account the interests of the future generation.

-- BERNAMA

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