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None of projects undertaken by Government wasteful, says Dr M

KUALA TERENGGANU, Thurs. - None of the projects undertaken by the Government is wasteful, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

All the projects that had been planned and implemented, he said, were carried out after indepth study and meant to benefit the people and the country in the short or long term.

He said the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, the Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and other projects were assets which generated income for the rapidly-developing country while serving the growing needs of the people.

He explained at length the needs for the implementation of the various large projects which the Opposition claimed to be prestigious and wasteful.

"It is only wasteful if we spend money on unnecessary projects, but in our case not only do the projects benefit us, but we use our own money," he said during a dialogue with Government employees.

Clearly referring to the Pas-led Kelantan Government, he said "they do not want to be wasteful to the extent they cannot even supply enough water to the people".

He regretted the Opposition's negative approach in their objection to projects undertaken by the Government.

"When we did not build roads, they complained, but when we did, they claimed we were wasteful," he said.

He was also asked to comment on his opinion of Datuk Dr Harun Din and Datuk Dr Hassan Ali of Pas who had been able to attract huge crowds during their ceramah.

Dr Mahathir said he did not acknowledge Harun an ulama as he used "air jampi" (blessed water) for people who sought his service to cure their ailments, but to cure his own illness, he sought treatment in Australia.

On Hassan, Dr Mahathir said when Hassan was attached to the Government's Biro Tatanegara, he admitted that the Government spent about RM1 million for him to obtain his PhD qualification.

"Now he is ungrateful to the Government," he said.

He also spoke on head of Pas consultative council Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat, who is also Kelantan Menteri Besar.

Dr Mahathir said he used to respect Nik Aziz as an ulama, but not anymore as Nik Aziz had now been giving opinions and making decisions for political mileage.

Dr Mahathir said he was grateful to God for blessing Malaysian women with beauty.

"But for Nik Aziz, beautiful women cannot work. Is his iman (faith) so weak?"

The Prime Minister denied accusations that he did not accept the ulama, dismissing it as a fitnah (slander).

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