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Mahathir-Sultan

SULTAN ASKS FEDERAL GOVT TO DEVELOP KELANTAN

KOTA BAHARU, July 23 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Sultan of Kelantan has asked for the federal government's cooperation in overcoming weaknesses in the state especially problems relating to its development.

Dr Mahathir said the Ruler conveyed this request personally during an audience and a luncheon the Sultan hosted for the prime minister at Istana Negeri yesterday.

The audience was in conjunction with Dr Mahathir's two-day working visit to the state which ended today.

"I had the opportunity to discuss administrative problems, Kelantan's progress and problems relating to the construction of east coast roads. We also discussed poverty and development of the hardcore poor and how the central government can go about overcoming them.

"And I think his highness is very concerned about Kelantan's progress and his highness expressed hope that the central government can help overcome the problems and weaknesses in Kelantan," Dr Mahathir said at a press conference here today at the end the visit.

Before the press conference, the prime minister held a special meeting with the Kelantan Umno liaison committee, which was the last function on his itinerary.

Dr Mahathir said the Sultan also spoke about lack of allocations as the cause of the problems the state was facing.

The Sultan also offered several suggestions as to the nature of assistance that the federal government could extend to Kelantan, the prime minister said.

"His highness is deeply concerned about Kelantan's development," Dr Mahathir said.

Kelantan Umno liaison chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and Rural Development Minister and Kelantan BN chairman Datuk Annuar Musa were also present at the press conference.

-- BERNAMA

RAR RYN