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Mahathir-Kedah

KEDAH MUST LOOK FOR NICHE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

GURUN, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- The Kedah government must look for a niche to develop the state, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Kedah could become an industrial hub in Malaysia, the prime minister said.

He said Penang, Johor and Selangor developed rapidly because Penang had a port, Johor was located near Singapore and Selangor had an international airport, port and was close to the federal capital.

Speaking at a seminar on Smart Partnership in Kedah's Development, here, he said the two new industrial estates in Bukit Kayu Hitam and Pulau Dayang Bunting, Kedah, could become major industrial centres in the country.

Kedah had potential for development, he added. untuk dimajukan.

Kedah is the second most backward state in Malaysia, after Perlis.

Responding to another question at the dialogue, Dr Mahathir said the padi farmers in the state would continue to live in poverty so long as they worked on small plots.

"They should team up and work their padi fields on a large scale using high technology and efficient management methods.

"I don't see how padi farmers with small plots can become rich with the subsidy given," he said.

The prime minister said he did not like the subsidy mentality.

"I may not become popular by not giving subsidy but I would rather be not popular than popular by giving money and in the process making my people weaker and weaker from time to time," he said.

-- BERNAMA

JM JK