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Mahathir-Allocation

DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATIONS JUSTLY DISTRIBUTED, SAYS PM

KOTA KINABALU, March 25 (Bernama) -- Federal development allocations for all states have always been justly distributed even to opposition-run state governments, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

This proved the federal government's determination to bring about equitable development to all states, he said.

"However, the problem is that there is a state government not run by the ruling coalition that tries to politicise federal allocations," he said when performing the ground breaking for a new federal administrative complex in Teluk Likas here today.

"They say...look at us, even though we are not governed by the central ruling party, we still can get what's ours.

"So when it is politicised, it is quite difficult for the central government to help...on the other hand if there is close cooperation between the state and federal governments, whatever allocation that is given will not be politicised," Dr Mahathir said.

Good state-federal rapport would enable implementation of more projects for the people's benefit, he said.

"Not long ago relations between the Sabah state government and the central central were not that well. Because of that it was glaring that not much development can be seen.

"In fact federal leaders on visits here were not well-treated then but the situation has changed," he said.

Dr Mahathir said since the Barisan Nasional (BN) took over the running of the state, a host of development projects were implemented, including the establishment of Universiti Malaysia Sabah.

"This reflects the good ties between the state and the federal governments.. at times the opportunity to be on good terms does not exist when the central and state governments are represented by rival parties," he said.

The prime minister said federal officers from other states also felt comfortable and welcomed in Sabah.

He said the construction of the new federal administrative complex also symbolised the close ties between Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur.

"I hope such ties will be lasting," he said.

The proposed complex, costing more than RM 100 million, will be built on a nine-hectare site adjacent to the Universiti Malaysia Sabah campus.

Presently 60 federal departments and agencies as well as 30 statutory bodies are scattered all over the state capital.

Some of them occupy the Federal House in Sembulan and Wisma Dang Bandang, while the rest leased space in the EPF Building and private premises.

-- BERNAMA

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