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Leaders confident OPP3 will help realise Vision 2020

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Leaders today expressed their confidence that the Third Outline Perspective Plan would bring the country closer to achieving its Vision 2020 aspirations.

In Seremban, Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad said Malaysia owed its steady socio-economic development to the Government's ability to plan far ahead.

He said the plan, tabled in Parliament today by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was an example of the Government's long-term planning strategy.

Mohamad Isa, who was speaking to reporters after the one-day State Assembly sitting here today, said Malaysia stood above other developing countries due to its visionary approach, which had brought rapid development for the country and people.

He added that the OPP3 will also help to soften the effects of the anticipated US economic slowdown on the country by activating the economy.

In Malacca, the Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam said he was confident the plan would "create a knowledgeable society which, in turn, will contribute towards achieving Vision 2020 ... This is a good and effective strategy."

He also welcomed the Government's plan to reduce the poverty rate.

"Judging from this, I believe that by 2005 we will be able to achieve the 0.5 per cent target, maybe even surpass that."

In Ipoh, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said the State Government would take pro-active steps to implement various programmes and development projects which were in line with OPP3.

He said in a statement that these pro-active measures should help develop rural communities so as not to be left out of knowledge-based development.

In Kuala Terengganu, Wan AlBakri Mohd Noor, president of the Terengganu Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said Malay businessmen would have to change their approach towards achieving success.

He said the OPP provided this signal, and it was now up to the Malays to wake up to reality so that they could make a quantum leap in terms of enhancing their competitiveness.

"The stress on a knowledge-based society showed the desire for businessmen to forge smart partnerships with young professionals who have the knowledge but lack capital," Wan AlBakri said.

"This will help businessmen get out of their own circle and establish a network to face stronger competition, if not from the bigger economies, then at least from our neighbours," he added.

He said the general message was for a change in attitude and mentality to cope with the changing times.

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