

# PM: No-discrimination

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## 'RM1 billion set aside yearly for Kelantan'

By Azran Aziz and Sulaiman Jaafar

KOTA BARU, Fri. The Federal Government does not discriminate against any State in the disbursement of allocations, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said RM1 billion was set aside for Kelantan each year to pay the wages of the 45,000 civil servants in the State in addition to the annual development expenditure of RM3 billion.

"We inject a lot of funds into the State (Kelantan)," he said during a meeting with civil servants from Federal departments and agencies based in Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir said the civil servants did not shop in Kuala Lumpur but spent the money in Kelantan and that this helped the economy of the State to grow.

"Without this massive injection of funds, the economy of Kelantan will be in a sorry state," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there were only 5,000 civil servants attached to the State Government departments and agencies.

"For us at the Federal Government, what is important is we spend money for the benefit of the people," he said.

The Prime Minister also said Malaysians should not be emotional when deciding their political options as decisions made under such situations would only result in wrong choices.

"There are quarters trying to invoke anger and fan hatred.

"Anger and emotional outbursts often prevail over good sense and we will end up picking the wrong Government," Dr

Mahathir said.

He said they had to be in the right frame of mind when making their choice as this involved their welfare and future.

He said the objective of the democratic system was for the people to use their wisdom in picking Government representatives with principles who are capable and could come up with policies that would benefit the people.

"Sometimes, we make our selection based on emotions and not for the future of the country," he said.

As a result, he said, the country would not progress and the people will feel cheated because they voted in a Government which could not develop a country.

Dr Mahathir said a wise society could not be easily influenced into making hasty decisions.

The Prime Minister said even when a country had an effective and efficient civil service, there would be little progress if the Government did not measure up to expectations.

"A combination of an effective Government and efficient civil service will lead the country to greater heights," he said.

He said the perception that a country would continue to develop as long as there was a Government was wrong.

"Every country has a Government but not all of them are developed. Although they have a big population and abundance of resources, some are still not developed," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was also important for the civil servants to be professional in discharging their duties.

# against States