

28/10/2002

Ali ticks off contractors who don't deliver on time

MALACCA, Sun. - Contractors who fail to complete their projects within the stipulated time are hampering the State's development efforts, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said today.

He said that while Malacca was striving to be a developed State by 2010, its efforts were being hurt by contractors who continued to delay projects or even abandon them.

"I find the attitude of some of the contractors alarming as even when they know that their projects are behind schedule, they do not work extra hard to have it brought on track.

"Such a lackadaisical attitude is hampering the State's progress."

The Chief Minister said the State Government was planning to construct infrastructure to achieve its development objectives.

Citing the Malacca International Trade Centre project, the World Assembly of Youth building and the construction of a Malay restaurant as an example, Ali said the contractors should buck up as he has noticed little progress on them after returning home from a 13-day official visit abroad.

Ali said this in his speech at the Malaysian Malay Contractors Association annual general meeting here today.

He said the delay in these projects could have been overcome if the contractors employed more workers.

The problem, he added, was that the contractors did not want to recruit local workers.

Ali said they could reduce the State's unemployment rate of 3.5 per cent for the second quarter by hiring locals.

He warned that with globalisation, local contractors may lose out to international construction companies if they did not improve their operations.

On another matter, Ali welcomed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's proposal to set up a modified national service system to cater to the youth.