

05 MAY 2002

Mahathir-Kelantan

DR MAHATHIR CHALLENGES PAS TO FULFIL ITS PROMISES

LANGKAWI, May 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today challenged the PAS-led Kelantan government to fulfil all the promises it made to bring development to the people in the state.

"It said that everything can be done if it comes into power, so ask it to do so," he said when asked to comment on a press report that the Kelantan government had mortgaged several pieces of land in Ulu Kelantan to private companies.

The report quoted Gua Musang Member of Parliament Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah as saying that the state government's deteriorating financial position had prompted the decision to mortgage the land, estimated at 50,000ha.

Dr Mahathir said that if the Kelantan government claimed that it would implement whatever development programmes in the state, then it must be done.

"If the state government can do what the Barisan Nasional government can, then do it," he said.

The report also quoted Tengku Razaleigh as saying that before the BN took over the Kelantan administration in 1980, the PAS government had also mortgaged 300,000ha in Ulu Kelantan to a company in Singapore but the land was redeemed when the BN took over.

Asked what would happen to the people of Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't know what to say

"I dare not say, I don't have the details," he said when asked whether the matter would affect the federal government if allowed to be prolonged.

-- BERNAMA

NH JK