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DPM: Need for good working ties

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KEDAH'S political and administrative leaders must foster an effective working relationship with each other to successfully implement development projects and explain to the people their benefits, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday.

Effective co-operation and relations between the two groups were important in ensuring the success of the State Government's efforts to make Kedah a developed State by 2010, he said.

"I hope a good working relationship is fostered between the political leadership and the State Government administration.

"There should not be any problem between the two as this can cause the people to feel uneasy, as all efforts to develop the State should be seen as maintaining the interests of both parties," Abdullah said when opening the Kedah Maju 2010 Convention at Dewan Seri Negeri, Wisma Darul Aman here yesterday.

Also present was Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain. The two-day event began on Wednesday with participation from over 450 State Government officials, businessmen, bankers and development project financiers.

Abdullah said his call for closer bonds between the State political and administrative leadership was to ensure there would be no problems in implementing the many projects needed to make the State developed.

"Any potential problem must be discussed because the State's political and administrative leaderships must be together. One cannot move without the other," he said.

In his speech, Abdullah also said the factor determining a State Government's success was its ability to deliver development to the people and to maintain their interests.

"Independence without development is meaningless because without progress, the people will be living in backwardness, poverty and always open to the possibility of being oppressed."

Abdullah said he was happy to note how Kedah and other State Governments planned to develop their States through the establishment of development plans such as the Kedah Maju 2010 blueprint.

The Deputy Prime Minister said such plans reinforced and complemented the Federal Government's development plans for the States.

He also said State Governments must realise that the Federal authorities would some times need to make requests, such as the acquisition of land for certain Federal development projects.

"These requests need to be processed and approved quickly by the State Government without them viewing it as requests which would only benefit the Federal Government."

In his speech, Syed Razak said the convention, which followed the launch of the Kedah Maju 2010 Action plan by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Sept 29 last year, was to gauge the progress achieved by the State in its efforts to make Kedah a developed State.

He said the State Government welcomed all constructive criticism from convention participants on how to finetune the plan.