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BM

MELAKA TO LEARN ABOUT 'MODERN VILLAGES' FROM KEDAH

MELAKA, Dec 22 (Bernama) -- The state government will send a group of officers to two 'modern villages' in Kubang Pasu, Kedah in January 2003 to learn about the concept used there so that it can be implemented in Melaka.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said currently the state government conducted the 'one district one product' concept in Melaka Tengah - clothing; Alor Gajah - handicraft; and Jasin - food.

"The government supported Prime Minister suggestion yesterday to develop kampungs equipped with various facilities including small scale industries. Suitable location are being located for this purpose," Mohd Ali told reporters after a ceremony for Hajj pilgrims at Seri Negara.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that a pilot project would begin in Temin and Binjal and if the concept succeeded it would be widened across the country.

The government would build houses and sell them to rural folks cheaply and create industries to provide work opportunities for the residents.

Up to 2,013 pilgrims headed for Mecca in January 2003 were feted by Mohd Ali at the event organised by the state government, Tabung Haji and the Melaka Islamic Affairs Council.

-- BERNAMA

SBS PC