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We can export experts, says PM

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BINTULU, Thurs. – Malaysia is capable of exporting contractors and consultants to developing countries to work on major projects, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said in the past we had to depend on foreigners, but we now had experts capable of handling various projects.

"The Penang bridge was built by Koreans, but the Second Link (with Singapore) was built by Malaysians," he told a Press conference after opening the RM385 million new Bintulu Airport.

Dr Mahathir said there were many infrastructural structures of international standard in Petra Jaya that had been built by locals.

He added that some were even better than that in developed countries, saying highways here were better than those in the United Kingdom.

"In fact, many major projects in developing countries are already using contractors and consultants from Malaysia. For example, an airport in Cambodia was built by Muhibbah Engineering," he said.

He said many developing countries had engaged locals experts to carry out their infrastructure projects.

Earlier, the Prime Minister said the airport was another effort by the Government to provide better facilities to the people.

"The Government will continue to provide good infrastructure to the people. The Government is not interested in building monuments for leaders. The Government's monument to the people is good infrastructure," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Government collected taxes from the people and returned them in the form of good infrastructure.

The Prime Minister also commended Global Upline Sdn Bhd for completing the Bintulu Airport a year ahead of schedule.

"Bintulu is developing ...a far cry from the place I saw during my first visit here several years ago when it seemed as though the Fokker aircraft was landing on a road between shophouses," he said.

On development in the State, he said it was progressing well under the leadership of Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud.