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Assembly-Melaka (TYT)

MELAKA CONTINUES TO STRIVE FOR STRONG GROWTH

MELAKA, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- The state government will continue with its policies and strategies for strong growth to achieve a developed state status by 2010, said Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin.

He said the emphasis on balanced development would continue so the people could enjoy prosperity and a better quality of life.

"Melaka has achieved remarkable progress in socio-economic development and I hope efforts will be continued to enhance economic growth of the state," he said when opening the budget session of the state legislative assembly here today.

Syed Ahmad said the state's gross domestic product (GDP) had increased to 4.6 per cent from 0.4 per cent in 2001.

He said that for the second year running, the state government would table a balanced budget exceeding RM200 million for next year.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, who was also present at the opening ceremony, meanwhile told reporters later that the balanced budget had proven to be a success in exercising control over the state's revenue without jeopardising economic growth.

He said the unemployment rate in Melaka was also expected to go down to 3.7 per cent from 5.7 per cent last year.

Mohd Ali also said a motion of thanks to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad would also be tabled during the current sitting, in addition to that expressing full support to his successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

-- BERNAMA

NO ABG