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Mahathir-Computer

SCHOOL COMPUTER LAB PROJECTS IN SABAH SMOOTH-SAILING, SAYS DR M

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed satisfaction with the smooth implementation of the construction of school computer laboratory projects in Sabah, saying they should serve as a role model to similar projects being carried out in other states.

"We all know that so many computer laboratories in Peninsular Malaysia are not built properly but in Sabah they have been built orderly and not even one project faced problem.

"The projects have no problem with elected representatives, no problem with government officers...everybody is satisfied.

"I think it is good if contractors from Peninsular Malaysia come here and see -- see only, don't disturb -- how Sabah implements its development programmes," he told a media conference at Terminal Two of the Kota Kinabalu International Airport before leaving for Kuala Lumpur at the end of his one-day visit to Sabah.

Dr Mahathir, who was briefed on the progress of Sabah's development programmes upon his arrival here this morning, said he was also satisfied with the implementation of development projects in the state.

"Schools are built properly, similarly hospitals and teachers' quarters. Everything is being done well by contractors in Sabah with the supervision of the state authorities," he said.

The school computer laboratory project involved 200 schools and according to the State Education Department Director Datuk Kamal D.E. Quadra, when met after Dr Mahathir's media conference, said 168 laboratories have been handed over to the department while the rest would be completed at the end of this month.

Asked how Sabah managed to implement the RM71 million project without much problems, Kamal said it was good project management.

As to the spending of allocations from the Federal Government in Sabah, Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, said some departments performed up to expectation but there are also some which did not.

"It is the same with Peninsular Malaysia, due to poor planning and budgeting. Some draw up huge budgets and after that cannot implement the projects. Other issues like land, compensation, squatters also hindered development (project implementation)," he said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman said Sabah's good performance in implementing development projects, especially basic amenities and computer laboratories was the result of the state government's stress on quality.

"I always remind contractors to complete their job according to the specified schedule, also have quality control so that our projects will not face problems.

"If we don't take care about quality, surely the project will be problematic. I congratulate the contractors involved for completing the job well. I hope this will continue," he said.

Some 100,000 students and 4,000 teachers will benefit from the construction of school computer laboratories in Sabah.

There are 470,000 students and 30,000 teachers serving in 155 primary and 184 secondary schools statewide.

-- BERNAMA

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