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Teras-Move

SWITCH TO LANGKAWI CAN POSE PROBLEMS, KEDAH GOVT TOLD

ALOR STAR, March 9 (Bernama) -- A Malay-based non-governmental organisation, Teras Pengupayaan Melayu (Teras), has called on the Kedah government not to be hasty in moving the state's administrative centre from here to Langkawi.

Teras president, Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid, if the switch became a reality, it could pose numerous problems to the state government and people.

"Teras disagrees with the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion that the state administrative centre be moved from Alor Star to Langkawi," he said in a statement here today.

Teras is a trust body set up to carry out research, training and education programmes for the Malay community.

Last March 1, when performing the ground-breaking ceremony for the phase two of the Underwater World project in Langkawi, Dr Mahathir suggested that the state administrative centre be moved from Alor Star to Langkawi.

The Prime Minister indicated that the move would draw more visitors to the resort island as Langkawi had an international airport with runways for the B 747s as compared to the Alor Star airport which can accommodate only the B 737s.

Mohd Azmi said the move would make it difficult for most of the Kedah people who wish to settle matters with state government agencies as Langkawi was located far from the mainland.

This would saddle the lower income group with high travelling costs, either through land or air routes, he said.

Costs incurred in constructing infrastructures needed for administrative buildings in Langkawi would burden the state government financially, said Mohd Azmi.

-- BERNAMA

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