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PM: Federal development of Kelantan, Terengganu to continue

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PASIR MAS, Mon. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Federal Government will continue to develop Kelantan and Terengganu as it wanted to share the riches of the country with all parties.

The Prime Minister said this included the States governed by Opposition parties and those facing financial difficulties as they also had the right to enjoy development and the riches of the country.

"But to what extent can we continue with the development projects if our contributions are not appreciated and other parties claim credit for the projects?" he said at the opening of the RM166.36 million Sultan Ismail Petra bridge at Tendong by Sultan of Kelantan Sultan Ismail Petra.

Present were the Raja Perempuan, the Tengku Mahkota, Tengku Bendahara and Tengku Temenggong.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and Federal and State dignitaries.

Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government had given a lot of assistance to Kelantan and was at present helping to improve water supply to the people to enable them to receive clean water.

The Prime Minister said the new bridge across the Kelantan River was the result of a promise by the Federal Government to the people of Kelantan, especially those in Pasir Mas.

"As Muslims, we know that if we make a promise it must be fulfilled. If we cannot deliver, then it is better for us to refrain from making promises," he said.

He said the Federal Government always kept its promises and this could be seen from the development throughout in the country.

Dr Mahathir said the world had acknowledged that the rapid development in Malaysia was the work of a capable and efficient government chosen by the people.

"It is very important to be careful when electing a government. If we choose incapable people, then it is impossible for them to bring about development," he said.

He said the democratic system allowed the people to choose their government but the people were sometimes taken in by sweet promises and fiery speeches.

"If they make the wrong decision, they will suffer," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the people must be grateful and thankful to the Federal Government for constructing the bridge and bringing other development to the State.

The Prime Minister said the people should also be thankful to the security forces, including the police and armed forces, for keeping the peace.

"We should not belittle or make disparaging remarks against them," he said.

The construction of the bridge started in October 1999 and was completed last April.

The 960-metre bridge with a dual carriageway is the third across the Kelantan River, after the Sultan Yahya Petra bridge and the Salor bridge.