

Rais asks opposition to 'swallow' their pride
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JELEBU - Information Communication and Culture Minister Dr Rais Yatim said Tuesday that the opposition parties had to swallow their pride after seeing the benefits of Barisan Nasional development projects which they had condemned once as wasteful.

He said these parties had all along looked down on the BN development efforts as wasteful and not beneficial for the people.

"For example, they had criticised the Penang Bridge project as wasteful but it is now providing a huge benefit to the people," he said.

The project, officiated at by Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Mohamad Hasan, is a 4.4-km road to be built at a cost of RM40 million over the next three years to replace the winding road which gets damaged often.

"The views and projections expressed by the opposition are far from reality. At one time, they condemned the Penang Bridge project, but now they want another bridge linking the island and the mainland," Dr Rais said.

He also said that PAS had stated at one time that it wanted to auction off Putrajaya but all that talk had disappeared following the success of the administrative capital and the opposition now desired to capture it.

The minister said the opposition condemnation had started way back in the 70s even when plans were being made to build the North-South Expressway.

Eventually, the allegation that the highway would be a drain on the country's funds died down as today the thoroughfare was the pulse of national development and the economy, he said.

Today, he said, the proposed construction of the 100-storey mega tower by Permodalan Nasional Berhad had become the target of condemnation by the opposition which regarded it as wasteful.

"What they do not know is that the project was initiated by the private sector and recommended to the PNB for construction with funds from that sector to emulate the success of the Petronas Twin Towers. They want bumiputeras and non-bumiputeras to benefit from its construction," he said.

Meanwhile, Mohamad said the opposition played mind games with the voters to confuse them.

"While criticising development brought by the BN, they state that they can also bring about such development if they can form the government," he said.

He claimed that all these statements were from desperate people who only wanted to confuse the people. - Bernama

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