

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	13 MARCH 2017



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed (to his right) looking at a model of Bachok Hospital at its launch at Kampung Bator in Jelawat, Bachok, yesterday. PIC BY SYAMSI SUHAIMI

They should not be punished just because they didn't vote for Umno and BN, says Najib

SULAIMAN JAAFAR
BACHOK
news@nst.com.my

KELANTAN and its people should not be punished for failing to support Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN) in previous elections, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said this sentiment was unlike a previous prime minister's, who insisted that the state and its people must be taught a lesson and have its allocation reduced for not supporting Umno and BN.

"Under the present government, not only was allocation for the state uncut but it was increased. For example, under the

10th Malaysia Plan, Kelantan was allocated RM5.3 billion; under the 11th Malaysia Plan, it was raised to RM12.1 billion," he said at the launch of the Jom Bantu Rakyat programme and groundbreaking of Bachok Hospital at Kampung Bator in Jelawat here yesterday.

Najib said some quarters had questioned why the Federal Government had allocated so many projects in Kelantan, including a university and RM140 million hospital.

"I did it because it is my responsibility and I love the Kelantan people. As a government, we must be receptive to the needs of the people and assist them.

"After all, the Kelantan people are human, too."

Najib said the government

must be fair to all states and votes were a secondary concern.

He said good deeds would be repaid in the afterlife, although it was good, too, if they could win votes.

Najib said he wanted to see Kelantan progress like other states in Malaysia.

"Bachok has a lot of potential and people here are intelligent," he said.

Najib also took a swipe at the opposition for saying Malaysia was a bankrupt and failed state.

He said Saudi Arabia's ruler, King Salman Abdulaziz Al-Saud, would not have made Malaysia his first stop on his tour of Asia if the country was a failed state.

"If Malaysia was bankrupt and did not follow Islam, do you think

they would have invested up to RM31 billion in the oil refinery and petrochemical project here at a time when the petroleum industry is down?" he said.

Najib said he wanted Malaysia to become one of the most successful countries in the world.

"I want to see Malaysia become among the top 20 countries in the world. To achieve this, the government must gain the support of all people in the country."

On Bachok Hospital, he said it was expected to be completed in September 2019.

Najib also announced that a station would be built in Jelawat as part of the East Coast Rail Link. It will be one of more than 20 stations along the line that will end in Pengkalan Kubor, Tumpat.

NST-13/3/2017