

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

'PM should be cautious about Kedah's wish lists'

ALOR STAR: State Umno Information chief Datuk Shaiful Hazizy Zainol Abidin has urged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to exercise caution in accommodating the state government's "absurd development wish lists".

Shaiful said the state government's idea of developing a light rail transit (LRT) system in Langkawi was unrealistic and unsuitable for current needs.

"How big is Langkawi that it requires a high-speed train, and how many tourists and residents are there on the island that would warrant a train with the capacity to accommodate hundreds of thousands of passengers?"

"That is why Sanusi's (Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor) wish list is illogical.

"It's like a boy who is asking for all sorts of gifts from Santa Claus.

When he doesn't get them, he will throw tantrums and blame everyone," he said in a statement.

Therefore, Shaiful said, Anwar and the federal government should be careful and not take the state government's wish list seriously.

"The Transport Ministry should not approve the Langkawi LRT plan because it is humiliating and makes Kedah look like a fool.

"Because in the end, Sanusi will not succeed in completing the mega projects. Just look at the Kulim International Airport, Kedah Rubber City, Widad Langkawi, the motorcycle racing track plan and so on. At the end of the day, he will blame the federal government."

Saiful, who is Merbok Umno chief, said Sanusi was known for making project announcements just to show that he was doing his job and get people's attention,

but failed to carry them out.

"The prime minister and the government should focus on enhancing and instilling confidence in the federal agencies in Kedah, including the Implementation Coordination Unit, to directly handle development projects in the state."

Anwar was scheduled to attend a briefing on development projects in the state at Wisma Darul Aman here during his visit to Kedah today.

Later in the evening, he will attend the Madani Aidilfitri open house in Tasik Darulaman, Jitra.

On Monday, state-owned Permodalan Kedah Bhd entered a pact with South Korea's Royal Eco Train Development to study the development of a LRT system in Langkawi.

State Industry and Investment, Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Commit-

tee chairman Dr Haim Hilman Abdullah said studies covering the project's technical, geographical and economic impact on residents would take between three to six months.

However, the proposal had received criticism from Pakatan Harapan and Barisan Nasional leaders in Kedah.

They argued that Sanusi should have focused on completing projects that were behind schedule, such as the five water treatment plants and resolving water supply woes in the state instead.

On Thursday, Transport Minister Anthony Loke said the ministry had not been informed about the state government's proposal to build an LRT system in Langkawi.

He was reported as saying that the state government must initiate the process by applying for approval from the Land Public Transport Agency