

**Kedah Can Progress Under Efficient Leader - Dr Mahathir
Bernama
March 16, 2013**

KUALA LUMPUR, March 16 (Bernama) -- Kedah can develop and progress if it was administered by an efficient leader, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said this could be seen when Kedah was under the Barisan Nasional (BN), whereby, various development projects were carried out in the state.

"However, since the opposition pact of PAS-DAP-PKR took over Kedah after the 2008 General Election, the new state government brought no development.

"Instead, the fight amongst themselves caused destruction to the environment, via indiscriminate logging," he told a gathering of almost 5,000 Kedah people residing in the Klang Valley, at Stadium Juara here Saturday.

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom, Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir and Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Johari Baharom.

Dr Mahathir said the Kedah people should ensure BN won big in the state in the coming 13th General Election to ensure the state would not be left out in development.

In the 2008 General Election, BN won only five of the 15 parliamentary seats and 14 of the 35 state seats in Kedah.

Dr Mahathir also called on the Kedah people living outside the state to return home to exercise their rights on polling day, as he and wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, would.

"We do not change our place of voting because we are indebted to Kedah," he said, and advised BN members against sabotaging its party candidates.

"I hope voters in Kedah will only support BN, regardless if the candidate is a Chinese, Indian or a person we do not like because we have to vote for BN," he said.

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