

**Najib To Open Kedah Umno Convention On March 14 - Mukhriz
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ALOR SETAR, March 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister and UMNO president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is scheduled to open the Kedah UMNO Convention on March 14, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Tun Dr Mahathir said today.

Mukhriz, who is also chairman of the Kedah UMNO Liaison Committee, said Najib would also witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Yayasan Pondok Agama Kedah and the Insaniah University College (KUIN) on the same day.

"We will table several resolutions for debate and discussion at the convention, including on the economic and development plans for Kedah," he told a news conference here.

One of the economic plans to be discussed at the convention was the proposed construction of the Kulim International Airport (KXP), he said.

Mukhriz said any economic and development plan, such as the KXP proposal, in Kedah required the support of UMNO and the Barisan Nasional (BN).

"Many may have yet to understand the justification for the proposed Kulim International Airport, and any doubt can be raised at the convention for an explanation," he said.

Delegates from all the 15 UMNO divisions in Kedah would attend the convention, he said.

Mukhriz also said that he wanted the broadband penetration rate and Internet speed in Kedah to be raised from the current 60 per cent for the benefit of students in the rural areas.

The broadband penetration rate and Internet speed were important to enable the online 'Kedah e-Tutor' programme of the state government to be fully utilised by rural schools, he said.

This would ensure a narrowing of the education gap between the urban and rural schools, he said.

Mukhriz said the chairman of the State Science, Innovation, Communications, Information Technology and High Technology Committee, Datuk Norsabrina Mohd Noor, had been instructed to hold discussions on the matter with telecommunications companies and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC).

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