

**Efforts to Turn Bagan Datoh into Education Hub Being Intensified - Ahmad Zahid
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BAGAN DATOH, April 10 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said efforts to turn Bagan Datoh into an education hub were being intensified.

He said the efforts were in line the wish of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to see the matter become a reality.

"All these are Allah's blessings, it is just that we want greater commitment from all quarters to realise the aspiration of the Prime Minister to see Bagan Datoh a prosperous district.

"For us to be in vertical social mobility, there is not other way than the academic way," he said when closing the "Libatsama Komuniti Berfokus" (PeACE) 2016 event at Sekolah Menengah Sains Bagan Datoh di here today.

Also present were University Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Wahid Omar and state Youth and Sports, Communications and Multimedia Committee chairman Datuk Shahrul Zaman Yahya.

The event was participated by 300 undergraduates from UTM, Universiti Perguruan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Seri Iskandar campus, Universiti Teknologi Petronas and community college.

According to Ahmad Zahid, who is also Home Minister and the MP for Bagan Datoh, a polytechnic and a Mara Junior Science College were in the works, besides a direct highway link between the town and Kuala Lumpur to reduce travelling time.

Meanwhile, Wahid said PeACE 2016 was divided into two phases with the first which concluded today, emphasised volunteerism and community services involving undergraduates.

He said phase two, from April 23 and Oct 30, involved three high impact projects, namely Agricultural Fertigation, Fibreglass Technology and development of an e-Niaga (e-Business) centre .

He added that the projects would help Bagan Datoh under the "One District, One Industry" initiative which would lead to bountiful job opportunities for the people.

The PeACE 2016 was introduced to assist the government to transform rural communities in line with the National Blue Ocean Strategy's Rural Transformation Project.

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