

Bigger Mandate For Kedah To Progress Further - Ahmad Zahid

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ALOR SETAR, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) government needs a bigger mandate in Kedah to ensure continuity in the state's development, including in the high technology sector, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He said the federal government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, would ensure a balanced development in the urban, suburb and rural areas in Kedah.

"Although Kedah is a state which produces 37 per cent of the country's staple food, the federal government will not forget Kedah in high-technology development.

"I'll continue to assist the prime minister in ensuring that Kedah continues to be given priority on the condition that we are given a bigger mandate," he said in his speech when opening the 'Ekspo Muafakat Kedah' here today.

He said the various allocations announced by the prime minister during his visit to Kedah and Langkawi were not 'dedak' (animal feed), but a commitment by the federal government for the people in the state.

If the RM1.3 billion (announced by the prime minister in Langkawi) is 'dedak', the person who said it is the one who has been giving the animal feed to the Kedah people, he said.

Ahmad Zahid said the prime minister and the Kedah Menteri Besar had pulled all resources to provide the allocation for the state's development and progress with huge and new projects.

The federal government under the leadership of Najib, and I will certainly assist him, will ensure the allocation flows swiftly to Kedah, he said.

He said under the leadership of Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah, Kedah continued to develop and increase its revenue.

Ahmad Zahid however said that the efforts by the federal government would require the full support of the people to ensure all the developments plans could be carried out smoothly.

On the exposition which began today, the deputy prime minister said it proved that all plans by the state leadership had been translated with implementation with the cooperation of state and federal government agencies.

If this is the proof that we get, it would be a loss if there is no continuity in the state government's administration.

This expo is not just a showcase for the people, but proof of the strength and continuity , and InsyAllah, in the next five years, if a bigger mandate is given, there'll be more development, he said.

The expo, until March 3, involved the participation of 119 government departments and the private sector and expected to draw about 400,000 visitors.

The aim of the expo is also to serve as a platform to promote the government's development agenda.

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