

## KERATAN AKHBAR

TARIKH : 23 JULAI 2023  
AKHBAR : THE STAR  
MUKA SURAT : 7

'Vital to be on same page'

# 'Vital to be on same page'

## Rafizi says state and Federal Govt must be like-minded

GEORGE TOWN: It is vital for both the state administration and the Federal Government to be aligned to ensure economic growth, says Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli.

For this to happen, he said it would require close cooperation at state and federal levels as one side would not be able to pull it off.

"Especially for a state like Penang, it is important to be aligned with the Federal Government.

"This is because it is easier to expedite growth as Penang is considered 'mature' with good infrastructure, a track record, existing private players over the years and a global network.

"It is a lot easier to build on that strength and bring it up to the next level.

"The state cannot pull this off on its own and the Federal



**Meeting the people:** Rafizi and Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow arriving attending 12th Malaysia Plan half-term session in Bayan Baru, Penang. — ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star

Government cannot do it without the state's cooperation," the minister told reporters after a half-term engagement session on the 12th Malaysia Plan in Bayan

Lepas yesterday.

Rafizi cited as an example the situation in Kedah, saying: "We have different views, like the cargo airport project (Kulim

International Airport) which is not economically viable.

"They just go to town and politicise it when it is not even political in nature," he added.

If Penang had a different state government, he said that "everything would be politicised then".

"You would have a situation where the Federal Government will pursue a vision for micro-chips, but the state government wants to pursue building three more airports. It will be completely misaligned," he said.

Rafizi said the best way to maintain the kind of pace that Penang had would be to continue heading towards the national target of becoming a high-income nation, and making sure both the state and federal governments were aligned.

"This is in the best interest for all," he said.