

Projects¹²⁴ for rakyat won't be slashed

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Government will not slash or cut down "projects for the rakyat" despite the fact that the country has been hit by the world recession, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said projects like housing and those to prevent floods (particularly in KL) would continue to be taken up and implemented for the benefit and well-being of the people.

The Prime Minister said the Government was keen on carrying out all the projects it had included in the Fourth Malaysia Plan.

"However, because of

the world economic recession, we cannot slash our rubber, tin and palm oil.

"As a result the country's revenue has declined and as such we have to determine our priorities in the light of this development," he said.

Funds

The Prime Minister made these remarks at a thanksgiving tea party here to mark the Barisan Nasional's victory in the Damansara parliamentary constituency.

BN candidate Mr Tan Koon Swan of the MCA wrested the seat from Mr V. David of the DAP by a majority of 14,522 votes. Mr Tan had earlier

told the gathering that City Hall did not have enough funds to implement all the projects it had planned.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it was vital to implement projects that really affected the rakyat despite the recession to ensure the continued improvement in the people's standard of living.

However, the Prime Minister did not specify what areas would be affected by the cutback on allocations or postponement of projects.

The Prime Minister pointed out that development needed funds and the Government would find ways to get the required funds.

"By funds, I don't mean the printing of money but revenue that we can derive from the nation's wealth."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Government would honour all election promises made a fortnight ago.

"We will implement projects even in Opposition-held areas because we have our supporters there," he added.

On the development of the Federal Territory, the Prime Minister urged the people to co-operate with the Government.

Earlier, Mr Tan said he would discharge his duties as a responsible MP for Damansara.