

# PM: No special allocation for Barisan MPs

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DATUK SERI DR Mahathir Mohamad denied that every Barisan Nasional MP is given a special allocation to spend on projects in the MP's constituency.

He said every MP had to make proposals he thought necessary and submit his application for funds to the district officer.

"The district officer will then study the application and submit it to the State Government for consideration," he said.

The State Government will give its approval based on the need for and priority of the project.

Replying to a question by Mr Chian Heng Kai (DAP-Bukit Mertajam), the Prime Minister said all such applications would be submitted to the Implementation and Co-ordination Unit in the Prime Minister's Department for allocation of funds.

Mr Chian wanted to know whether the constituencies won by MPs from Opposition parties would receive

development expenditure of \$200,000 a year as allocated to constituencies won by the ruling party.

He also asked whether representatives from the Barisan Nasional were able to make decisions on development programmes themselves while those from the Opposition had to forward their proposals to the district officer.

Dr Mahathir said normally the value of projects forwarded by MPs was restricted to not more than \$200,000 a year.

"If approved, the projects are implemented through State development officers and district officers according to procedures undertaken for other development projects."

To Mr Lim Kit Siang's (DAP-Tanjong) supplementary question on whether the Prime Minister could give an assurance that each constituency would not get more than \$200,000 a year and that there

would not be any discrimination between areas represented by members of the ruling party and those under the Opposition, Dr Mahathir said:

"I cannot assure that each constituency gets only \$200,000 because the value of projects may differ in different areas. It all depends on the requirement."

The Prime Minister said in undertaking development projects in various constituencies, the question of discrimination did not arise because approval for these projects was based on their necessity.

"It is impossible that we will build a road in a BN constituency and then end it just before an Opposition stronghold, because there will be another BN constituency just after that of the Opposition," he told the Dewan.

To another supplementary question by Encik Ibrahim Ali (BN-Pasir Mas), the Prime Minister said he was aware that constituencies represented by the Opposition were in urban areas and normally got more than \$200,000 a year for their projects.