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Hospital projects `affected if ringgit stays low'

MUAR, Mon. - Health projects under the Seventh Malaysia Plan may also be delayed if the ringgit's depreciation against major currencies is prolonged, Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said.

He called on Malaysians to rally behind Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in efforts to strengthen and stabilise the ringgit.

He said health projects costing RM2.6 billion including 21 hospitals and many health centres throughout the country had been approved during the Seventh Plan in line with the Government's aspiration to establish "modern paperless hospitals".

"All Malaysians must give their full support to the Prime Minister to implement counter-measures to check the irresponsible moves of the rogue speculators," he said at the opening of a three-storey Malaysia Toh Association building in Bakri.

Chua said Malaysia had to move forward with projects beneficial to the people and country.

He said Malaysians had to play a role to ensure that projects like the Multimedia Super Corridor would not be affected.

"We must place our confidence in his (Dr Mahathir's) leadership in tackling speculative attacks on the ringgit and manipulation of the stock market."

Chua said the stock market had shown signs of improvement, which indicated that the Government had moved in the right direction.

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