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MB: Renovation cost may not amount to RM5 million

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PETALING JAYA, Mon. - Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar today said even though the State Government had approved RM5 million for renovation works at his official residence, it might not be the actual amount incurred by the contractor appointed by the State Public Works Department.

He said the State Government would be meeting the contractor soon to discuss the matter and to ascertain what was the actual sum involved in the renovation works carried out at the official residence between mid-August and end of September this year.

Abu Hassan said this at Restoran Kelana Mutiara in Kelana Jaya after launching the RM240 million Saujana Utama housing project to be implemented in Ijok, Kuala Selangor.

He also said that a detailed report on the renovation works had been submitted to the Prime Minister's Department.

Asked when he would be meeting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on the matter, Abu Hassan said it would be soon.

Last Thursday at the Selangor State Assembly, Abu Hassan said he approved the RM5 million for renovation works after getting approval from the State Executive Council and heads of department.

He also said that the matter was discussed in depth during the Exco meeting as it involved a large sum of money.

Abu Hassan had said that when the PWD informed him the renovation works would cost between RM4.5 million and RM5 million, he had felt the amount was too high but had to agree when it provided a detailed breakdown.

Meanwhile, Selangor Umno secretary Datuk Onn Ismail, in a Press conference, said the State Umno at a meeting last night had unanimously agreed to support the State Government in its RM5 million allocation for the renovation works at the Menteri Besar's official residence.

He said the State Umno had also agreed that the allocation was made before the economic problems and would ascertain the actual cost incurred after discussion with the contractor concerned.

"Selangor Umno will explain the issue and decision taken by it to all Umno divisions in the State," he added.

State Umno had urged Abu Hassan to move to the official residence as soon as possible.

Abu Hassan had said last week that he would move in before Christmas.

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