

25 JUL 1998

Anwar - Plan

GOVT TO RUSH IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOVERY PLAN, SAYS ANWAR

BUKIT MERTAJAM, July 25 (Bernama) -- The government will ensure that implementation of measures spelled out under the National Economic Recovery Plan at all levels will not only stick to schedule but expedited as well, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

As such, he said, the government would require a comprehensive implementation machinery besides holding weekly meetings to monitor and appraise progress of work carried out.

"I have been asked by (prime minister) Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to ensure that implementation at the various levels follows the schedule," he told reporters after chairing the meeting of the Pulau Pinang Bumiputera Participation Steering Committee here today.

Anwar said he recently met officials of the Implementation and Coordination Unit of the Prime Minister's Department to set the schedules for ministries, departments and agencies to avoid delays on their part in implementing projects assigned to them.

He said the first such meeting to monitor progress of implementation of the plan has been fixed for next week.

The National Economic Action Council (NEAC) last Thursday announced the national economic recovery plan which spelt out six objectives as its main thrusts.

They are aimed at stabilising the ringgit, regaining investor confidence, maintaining stability of the currency market, reinforcing economic fundamentals, sustaining balance and socio-economic agenda and reviving beleaguered sectors.

Part of the overall economic recovery plan has already been carried out and the rest was being scrutinised for implementation, said Anwar, who is also Finance Minister.

He reckoned that implementation of development projects during the first half of the year was still unsatisfactory.

"Therefore at today's steering committee meeting I reminded government departments and district officers to expedite implementation of small, medium and major projects," he said.

In facing the current economic slowdown the government has emphasised that departments, including the education and human resources ministries, should concentrate more on training and education, Anwar added.

-- BERNAMA

SA MAI rn