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Affifuddin-Contractor

MINOR PROJECTS TO HELP CONTRACTORS

PULAU PINANG, April 4 (Bernama) -- The government will not scrap minor development projects like low-cost housing and infrastructure facilities to help small contractors weather the economic slowdown.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Affifuddin Haji Omar said today that with these on-going minor projects, the small contractors, especially those who depend on the government for projects, could hope to survive.

Speaking to told reporters after opening the annual general meeting of the Pulau Pinang branch of the Malaysian Malay Contractors Association, here, he said the government had not slashed projects for the welfare of the people and the contractors could also benefit from these projects.

He was responding to association president Haji Roslan Awang Chik's speech that the group most affected by the economic downturn was the contractors, especially those in the construction sector.

In a survey done by the association three weeks ago, 10 per cent of the 18,000 contractors nationwide might have to close shop and many more would join them in the next three to six months if the economy did not improve.

The association has 7,500 members with 1,000 of them in Pulau Pinang.

Dr Affifuddin also said that several local corporate figures had responded to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to sell their assets in foreign countries and repatriate the money. -- BERNAMA

ZU HAR JK