

16 OCT 1998

RURAL DEVELOPMENT EXPECTED TO GET PRIORITY - ANNUAR

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Next year's Budget to be unveiled on Oct 23 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to focus on rural development.

Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa said today Dr Mahathir, who is also the First Finance Minister, had stated that taxes imposed under the budget would not burden the people.

"Infrastructure, power and water supply projects as well as poverty eradication programmes are expected to receive enough allocation," he said after opening the Sekolah Kebangsaan Desa Pahlawan parent-teacher association meeting in Desa Pahlawan, near here.

Annuar hoped the ministry would receive RM1.1 billion allocation in the Budget, the same amount it received under the 1998 Budget.

He said next year's Budget was expected to provide better opportunities for small-scale contractors, especially those in Class F to obtain projects in rural areas.

In another development, Annuar said the ministry was trying to improve the income of settlers in land schemes through downstream projects like operating livestock farms in oil palm estates nationwide.

He said 32,000ha of oil palm estates in Terengganu had been chosen as a pilot project for this venture.

-- BERNAMA

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