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Abu Hassan: Selangor will exceed 2.16pc growth target

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SHAH ALAM, Wed. - The Selangor Government is confident the State will achieve more than the forecast economic growth of 2.16 per cent this year due to better performance recorded by several sectors.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar said with several sectors showing growth, especially with the strategies and programmes implemented by the Selangor Economic Action Council, the forecast economic growth for the State should be more than 2.16 per cent.

"I have directed my officers to study the matter and submit their report," he said at a Press conference in his office today.

Abu Hassan who had earlier chaired the weekly SEAC meeting, said they discussed a number of current economic issues especially those stressed during the National Economic Action Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad - development and land.

"The SEAC today unanimously decided that due consideration would be given to further boost the construction industry, such as infrastructure, housing development including the construction of low- and medium-cost houses and building projects."

He said all government officers at State and district levels have been ordered to expedite applications submitted for the reclamation of land to construct roads.

"The State Land and Mines Department has also been directed to submit the list of applications for reclaiming land for the construction of roads," he said, adding that all applications would be studied and approved if they were in order.

Abu Hassan said applications for land conversions for building and housing projects would also be given due consideration by SEAC.

"What we want is for the economy to move. We do not want delays in the approval of applications which will hamper the State's economic growth," he said.

Asked if there were many backlog cases of applications not approved, Abu Hassan said the normal applications were cleared fast but the backlog was in the old applications that had been piling up in the land offices for years.

"All these old applications for land conversions and development projects need to be looked into and cleared if the applicant is still alive and interested."

Those who have problems getting their applications approved are urged to write in to the Menteri Besar's office for the attention of Abu Hassan himself.

Another topic dealt with at length at the SEAC meeting was the activities lined up for the Visit Selangor Year 2000.

To prepare for the Visit Selangor Year 2000, Abu Hassan said a Visit Selangor Action Plan had been drafted. State Health, Culture and Tourism Committee chairman Datuk Dr Pius Martin and his team briefed the SEAC about the plan.

He said the RM1.5 million Selangor Tourist Centre in Shah Alam would be opened by Dr Mahathir on May 13 and the Visit Selangor Year 2000 would be officially launched in June.

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